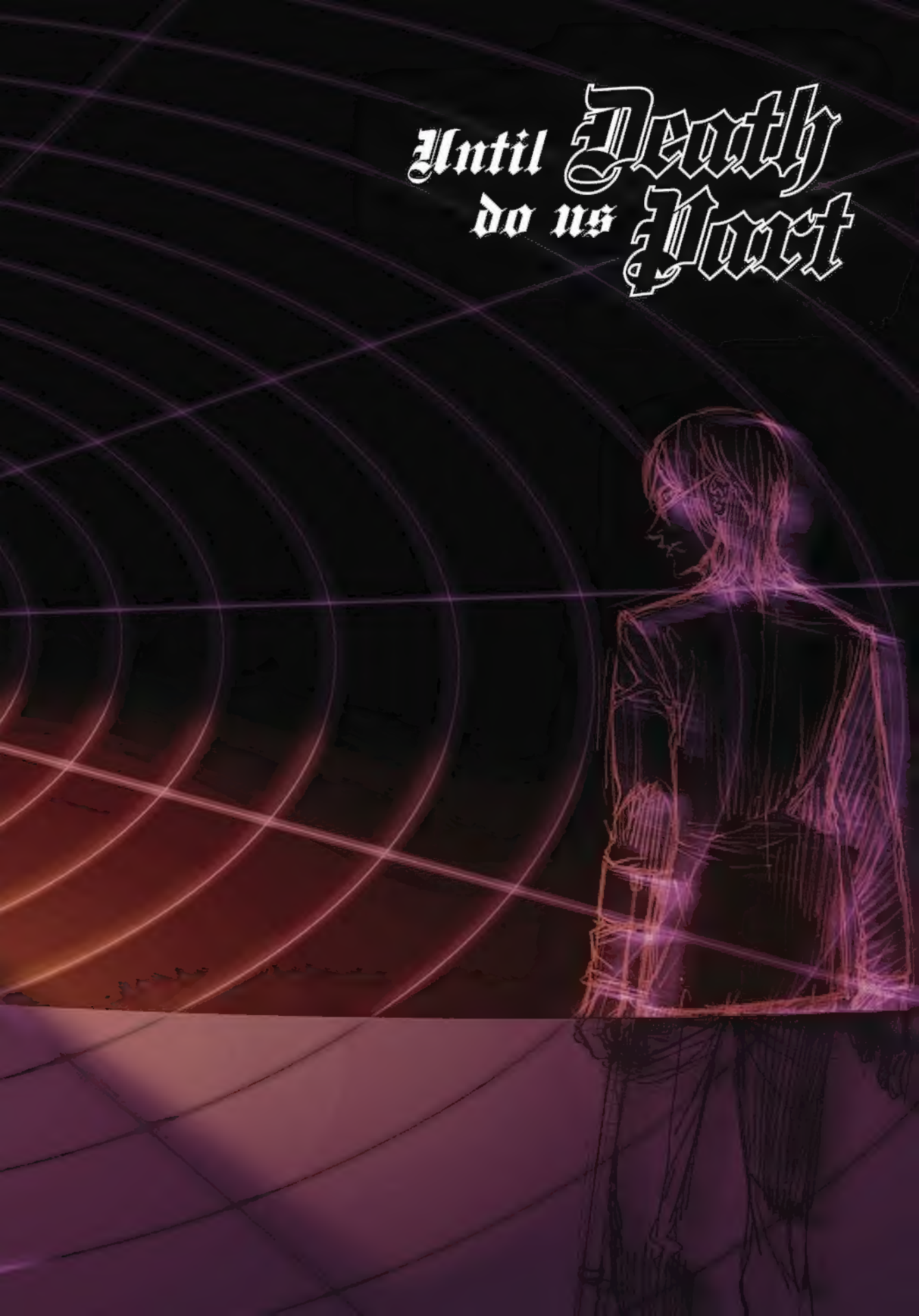
5
Until
do us
Death
Part
Story:
Hiroshi Takashige
Art:
DOUBLE-S

Until Death do us Part

Story: Hiroshi Takashige
Art: DOUBLE-S

Until Death do us Part

Until Death do us Part



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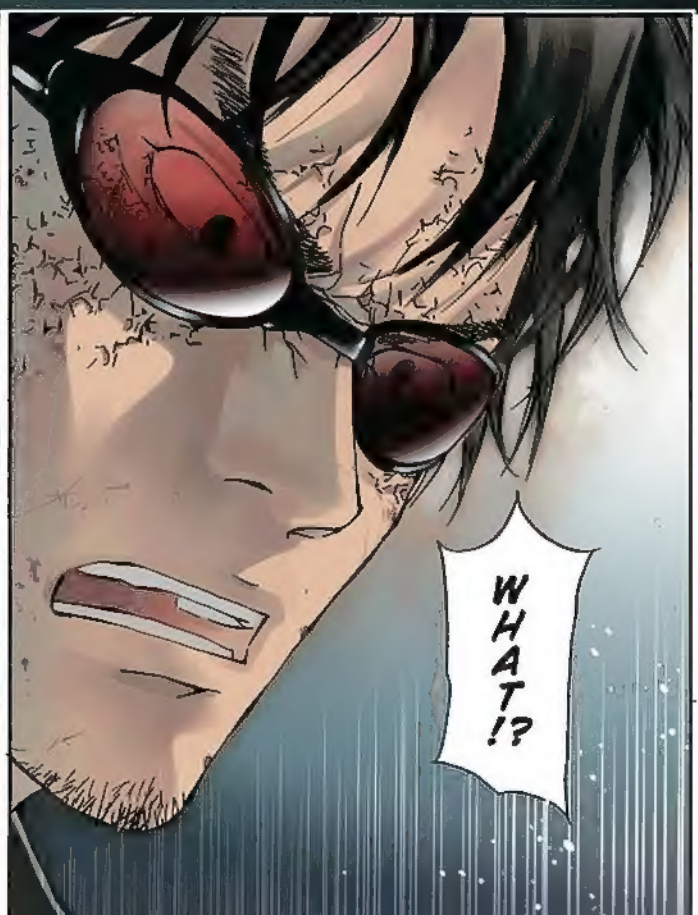
IF I'M ONLY IN THE WAY...JUST KILL ME...

IF IT MEANS FALLING INTO THEIR HANDS...

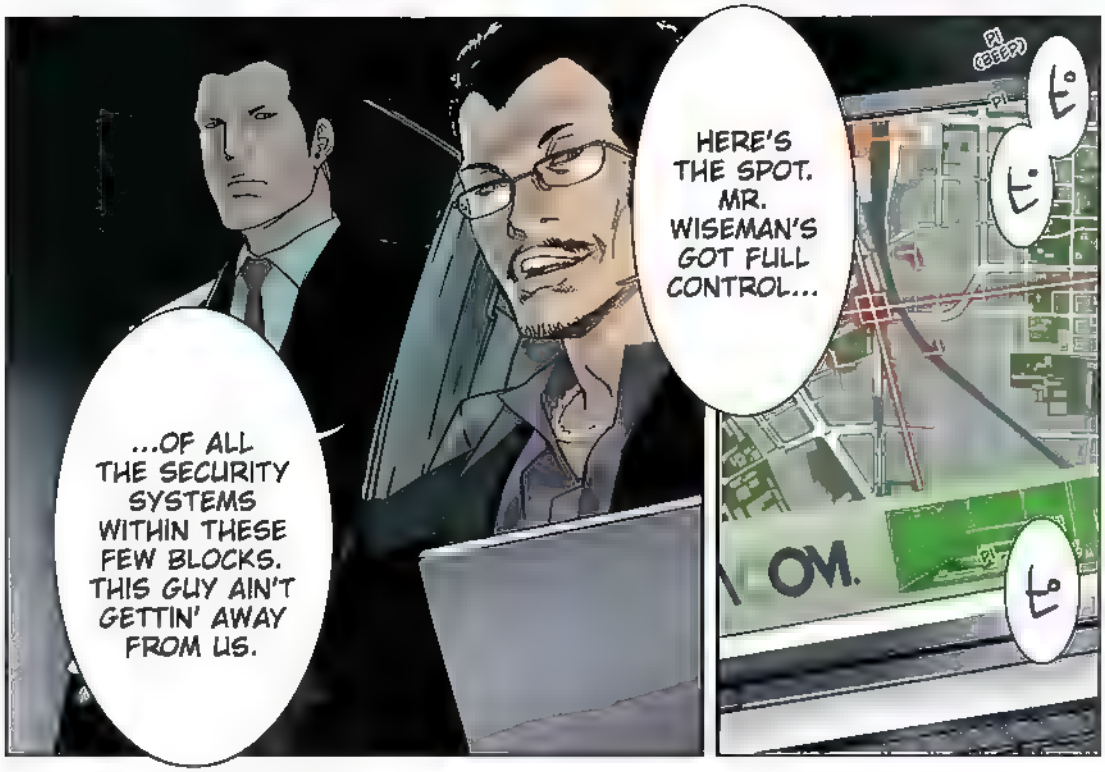

WHAT!?

chapter 66

...I'D RATHER YOU DO IT YOURSELF... PLEASE...

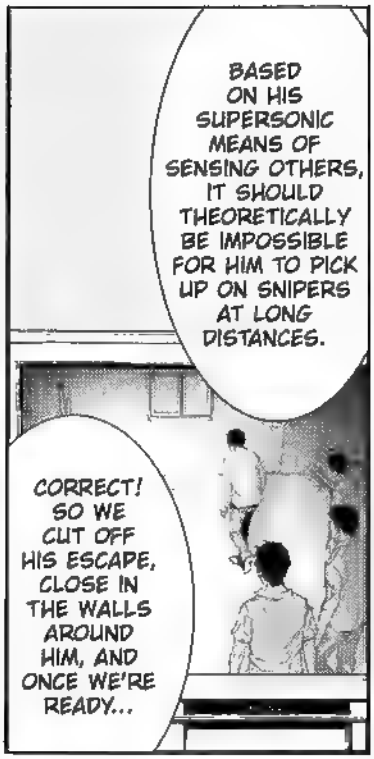
...I'D RATHER YOU DO IT YOURSELF... PLEASE...

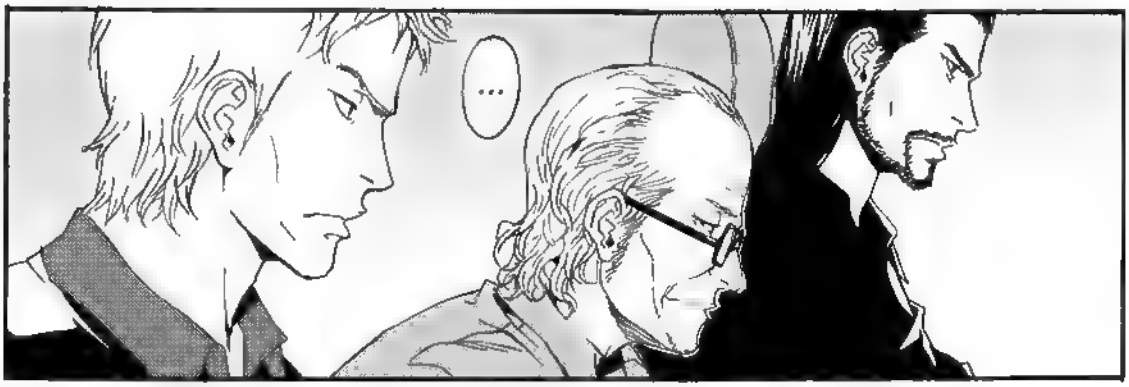
chapter 66


...OF ALL THE SECURITY SYSTEMS WITHIN THESE FEW BLOCKS. THIS GUY AIN'T GETTIN' AWAY FROM US.
HERE'S THE SPOT. MR. WISEMAN'S GOT FULL CONTROL...
PI (BEEP)
PI
PI
ON.

GATHER UP ALL THE ISOLATED FORCES.
DON'T LET THEM GET TOO CLOSE! IF HE'S CORNERED BY ONLY FOUR OR FIVE AT ONCE, HE'LL WIPE THEM OUT!
IT'S TIME FOR THE FINISH.
SEND THE FOUR MEN IN SNIPER POSITIONS TO THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS, ONE AT A TIME.

...WE DRAW THE NET AROUND HIM ALL AT ONCE.


BASED ON HIS SUPERSONIC MEANS OF SENSING OTHERS, IT SHOULD THEORETICALLY BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO PICK UP ON SNIPERS AT LONG DISTANCES.
CORRECT! SO WE CUT OFF HIS ESCAPE, CLOSE IN THE WALLS AROUND HIM, AND ONCE WE'RE READY...


...

KOTO (THUNK)
コト
WITH SUCH A PERFECT TRAP SET ON ALL SIDES...

...HOW WILL HE RESPOND !?

ガシャーン
ウオオオ
ウオオ
WE HAVEN'T GOTTEN THE SIGNAL YET!
HYA-HOOO !!
HEY!

GASHAAA
GO ON, OPEN THE DOOR!
WELL, THEY AIN'T GONNA WAIT FOR US!
THEY'RE ALL FUCKIN' TRIPPING!
MY NECK ...
HURRY UP!
GACHA (CLICK)

GO ON! YOU'RE THE LAST ONES!
ZORO (WANDER)
ZORO
GET MOVING !!
...
!?
MUHHH...

HUH?
YASUDA-SAN WAS BACK THERE AMONG THE ZOMBIES!!
Y...
YA-SUDA-SAN WAS...
H-HEY!
WHAT!? WE GOTTA GO!
...
THOSE WERE ...
...ALL THE GUYS REBELLING AGAINST THE WAKA-GASHIRA...
AND KII-SAN, AND OCHI...
MEANING THIS WAS ALL...
...A PURGE ...

...
...I'LL MAKE SURE THEY ADHERE TO THE PLAN LATER...
...SOME OF THEM ARE RUSHING AHEAD...
ONCE THE SNIPERS HAVE FINISHED MOVING, WE'RE GOING ALL IN.
WELL, IT WON'T HAVE MUCH OF AN EFFECT ON THE MAIN FORCE...

UNDER-
STOOD.
ウォォォ
ガッ
ガッ
ガッ

ドガアッ
DOGAA (CRASH)
バキン
BAKIN (BKOOM)
ガシャアッ
GASHAA (CRUNCH)
BLOOD (YARN)

JESUS!
GIVE ME A BREAK! I CAN'T MAKE ADJUST-MENTS WHILE I'M DRIVING!!
AAAAH!
KIKIKI (SCREECH)
GYA... (SCREEK)

ARE THEY HEAD-ING ME OFF!?
!?
OH SHIT!!
DID THEY DRAW ME INTO A TRAP!?

Until
Death
do us
Part

...OH SHIT...
NOW I CAN'T GET TO THEM!!
KI (SCREECH)
BUOOO (VROOM)

ドガ
DOGAA (SMASH)
ガ
ア
ギュルル
TSK!!
ガチャン
GACHA (CLICK)
GACHAN (CRANK)
GA (CRSSH)
ガガガガ
ガチャン
キュルルル
KYURURU (SQUEA...
ドガ
DOGA (THWAM)
ヴォオオオ

A-ARE THEY COMING FOR ME!?
DAHH!!

chapter 67

BUOOO

...THEY'RE TRYING TO PREVENT ME FROM PROVIDING MAMORU WITH SUPPORT.
...SO THEY'RE NOT JUST TRYING TO TAKE ME DOWN...

BUCK (VRUM)
KAN (CLACK)
カン
ドガッ

JU-LIET!
JAKI (SHIKK)
SORRY ABOUT THE WAIT.
DIE, BITCH!
DON (BLAM)
DON
DON
KIN (KTING)
DON
DON
HYU (SWISH)

DON
(BLAM)
ZUDO
(BLAM)

YEAH, WE GOTTA GET TO MAMORU!

LET'S GET MOVING!

DOSA
(THUMP)

PRE-PARED WITH WHAT?
HEH ...

YOU NEED TO BE PREPARED IF YOU'RE GOING TO JUMP INTO A TRAP LIKE THAT.
NOT YET ...
HUH ?

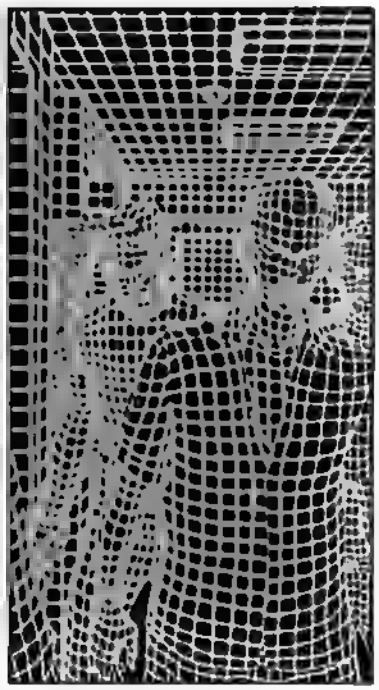
GASHAA (CRASH)
ガシャア
!!
ドガァ (BLAM)
TA (TAT)
タタタタ
AAAH!
GYAAAA!
DON
ドン
DON (BLAM)
TSK! HE'S STILL GOT ENOUGH STRENGTH TO FIGHT.

DON'T SEND OUT ANY MORE ASSAULTS.
HE'S GOT THE ADVANTAGE IN THE DARK.
IF THEY'RE NOT MOVING OUT, HOW DOES THAT CHANGE THE PLAN?
GO CONFIRM MR. WISEMAN'S ORDERS.
WHAT ABOUT THE POLICE WIRELESS?
NOTHING OF NOTE SO FAR.
THINGS NEVER HAPPEN THE WAY YOU EXPECT. PLANS ARE MEANT TO BE THWARTED.
I GUESS WE WERE WRONG WHEN WE THOUGHT WE COULD LURE HIM INTO STRIKING BACK AT US...
SHIT. EVERYTHING ELSE WAS GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN SO FAR.
...NAH, I THINK IT'S SOMETHING ELSE.
SOMETHING MAJORLY UNEXPECTED MUSTA TAKEN PLACE...

YOU DOING ALL RIGHT?
... YES ...
...BUT NOW I'M STUCK SNEAKING AROUND INSIDE...
GOD-DAMMIT... I'D HAVE STRUCK BACK BY NOW...
IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE A BURDEN ON ME, THEN SIT BACK AND SHUT UP LIKE YOU OUGHT TO.
I WILL ...
...

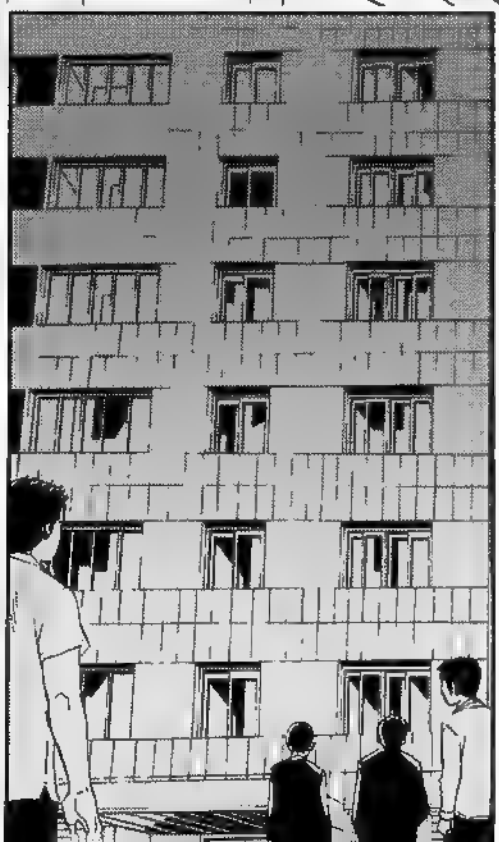
...OH, GOOD...

..HERE WE GO, THEN...



I'LL JUST HAVE TO PREPARE FOR THE WORST.

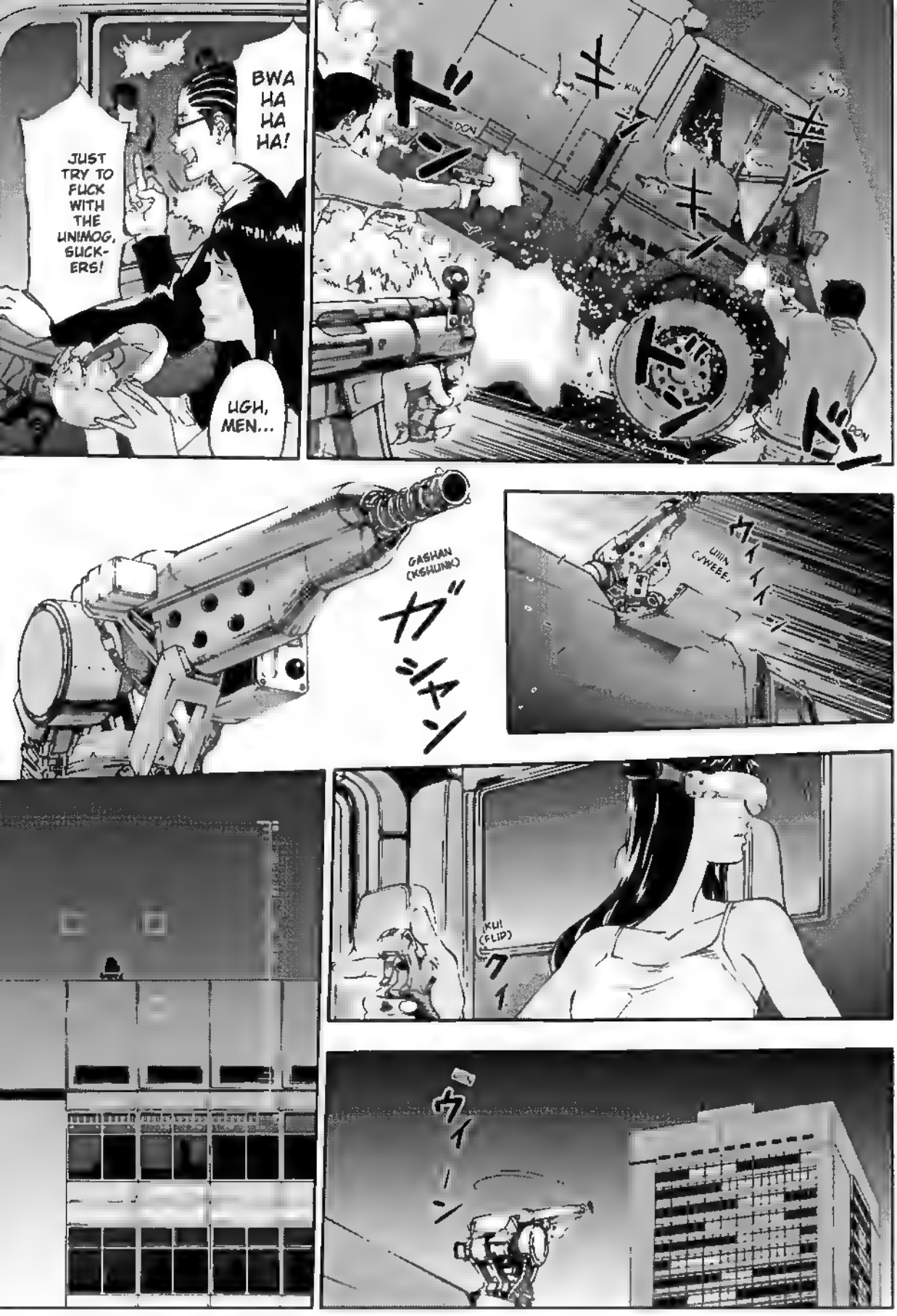
HEY... GET THE OTHER TEAM WARMED UP!
IT'S TOO QUIET... WHAT'S GOING ON IN THERE?
YES, SIR.

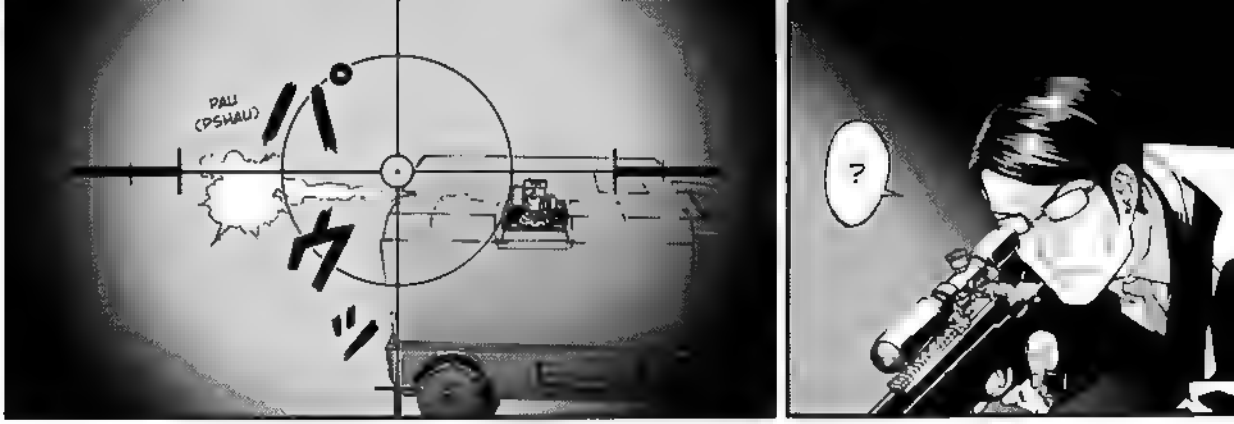


BAKI (CRACK)
AAAH!
BAKI

DO (RUMBLE)
BUT ...
JUST DO AS I SAY.

GYAAA!
AAAH!
YEEE-HAWW!!
GUSHAA (CRUNCH)
DON
DON
DON
BLAM


BWA HA HA HA!
JUST TRY TO FUCK WITH THE UNIMOG, SUCKERS!
UGH, MEN...
DON
KIN
GASHAN (KSHUNK)
ガシャン
UHHN (WHEEE)
ウィィィン
KUI (FLIP)
クイ
ウィーン

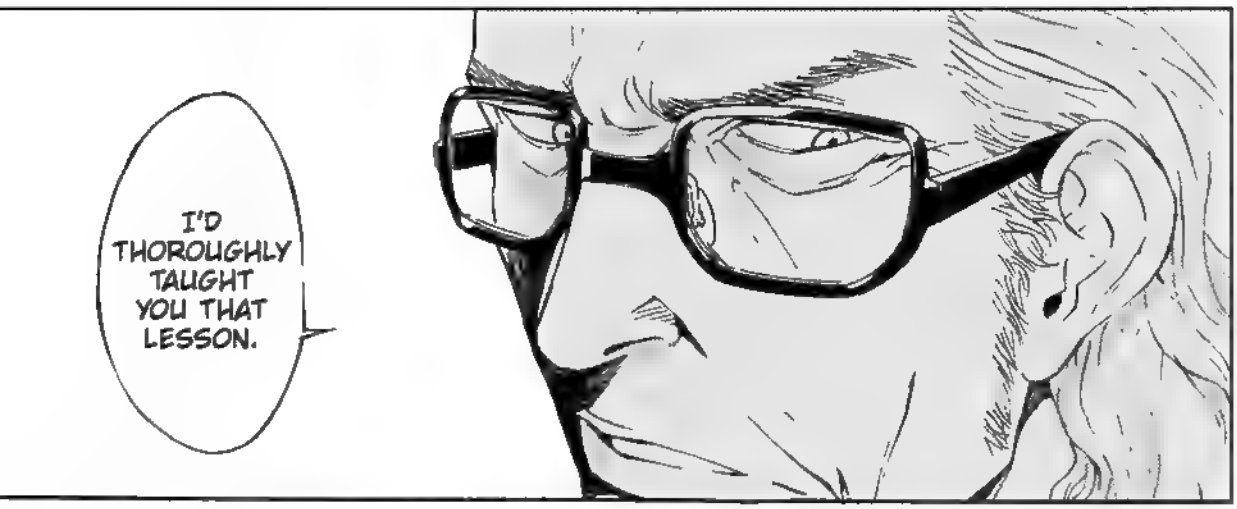

PAU
(PSHAU)
?

IT'S A GRE-NADE !!
PULL BACK!

!

!!
BA
BA
BA
(BRAT)
BA
BA
GASHAN
(CRASH)
GASHAN
HRRGH
...
WHAT!? THAT'S THE XM-307... IT'S STILL AN AMERICAN PROTOTYPE!
THESE PEOPLE MUST HAVE MUCH DEEPER CONNECTIONS THAN I'D THOUGHT.

IT EXPLODES DIRECTLY OVER THE COORDINATES OF THE TARGET ...
...SPRAYING SHRAPNEL IN A BURST SEVERAL YARDS IN DIAMETER.
WHAT KIND OF HARDWARE IS IT?
IT'S AN AIRBURST GRENADE LAUNCHER.
HOWEVER, THAT ONE APPEARED TO BE USING NON-LETHAL ORDNANCE LIKE RUBBER...
I WANT EVERYONE AWAY FROM THE AREA!
SNIPER TEAM, PULL BACK! SAME TO THE OTHERS!
YOU CAN'T RISK GOING IN ANY DEEPER ONCE UNKNOWN VARIABLES HAVE ENTERED THE EQUATION.
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!!


I'D THOROUGHLY TAUGHT YOU THAT LESSON.

...

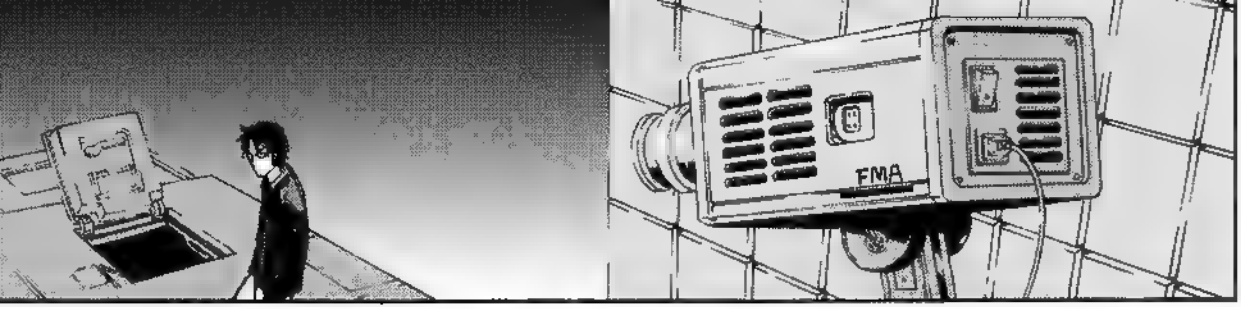
ブ"
BURORORO

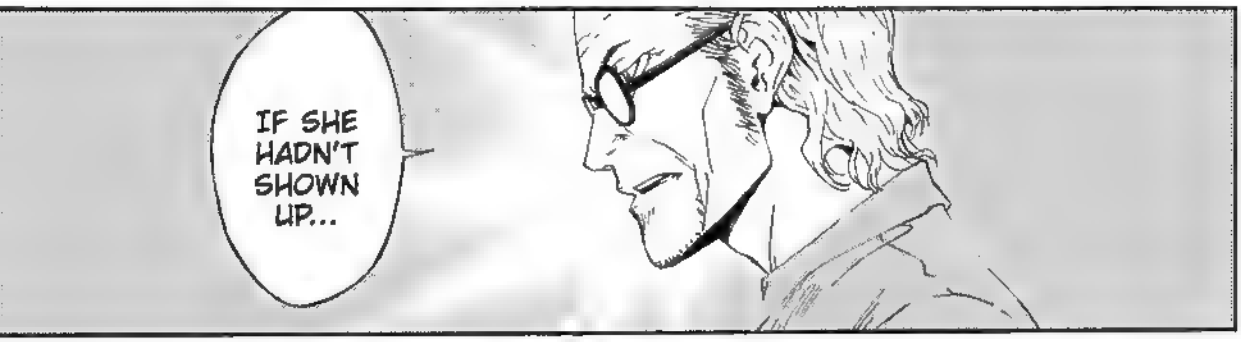
ダ" DA (DASH)
ダ" DA

GACHA (CLICK) ガチャ
ブオオオ
BUOOO (VRRRR)

...ARE THE SIZE OF THE SPONSOR BEHIND HIM...
THE UNKNOWN VARIABLES IN THIS CASE...

...AND THAT GIRL WITH THE GIFT OF FORESIGHT.


FMA


IF SHE HADN'T SHOWN UP...

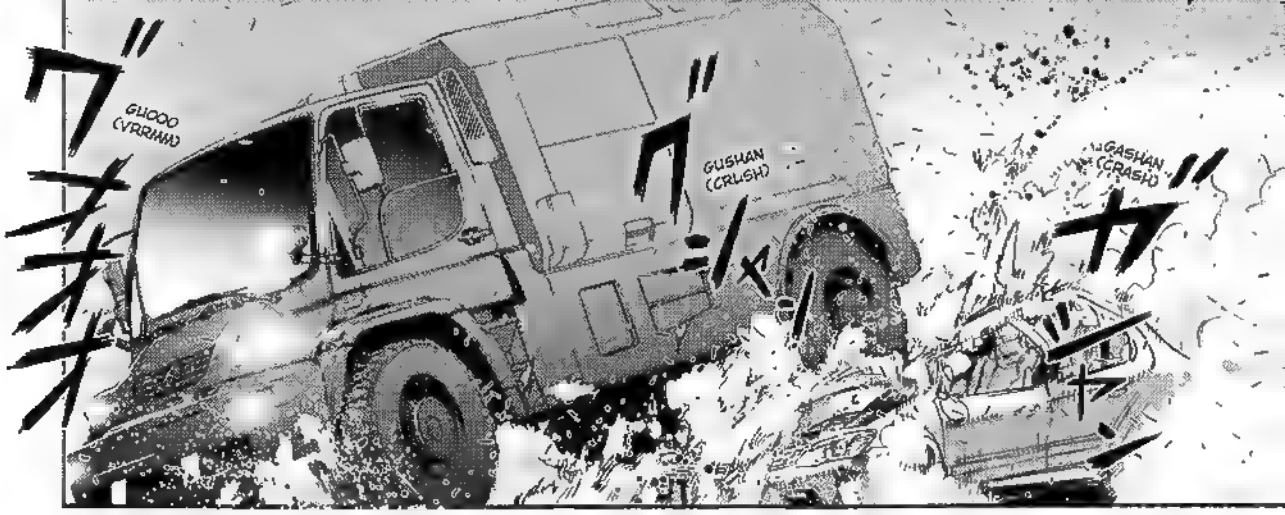
ZAAA (ZSHHK)
ア ア ア ア ア

...THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN OVER ONCE WE'D CORNERED HIM.

パ
チ
PACHI (POP)
PACHI
パ
チ

WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT COP!?
...
SHIT! WHERE IS HE!?
DAN
DAN
DAN
WHERE'S THAT COP!?
DAN (SLAM)
IT SEEMS AS THOUGH...
...HE HAD A WRINKLE OR TWO MORE THAN WE EXPECTED.
(KIN)
(KIN)
(KIN)
(KIN)
(KIN)
TA
TA
TA
TA
TA
TA
TA
TA
TA
TA
TA
TA

SUCK-ERS!
?
(VWEE)
ウィィィ
(GIN HNNG)
GUH !!
AAAH !!
HAH! HOW DO YOU LIKE LRAD, MY NON-LETHAL SOUND WEAPON.
KUI (TWIST)
KUI
AAAGH!!

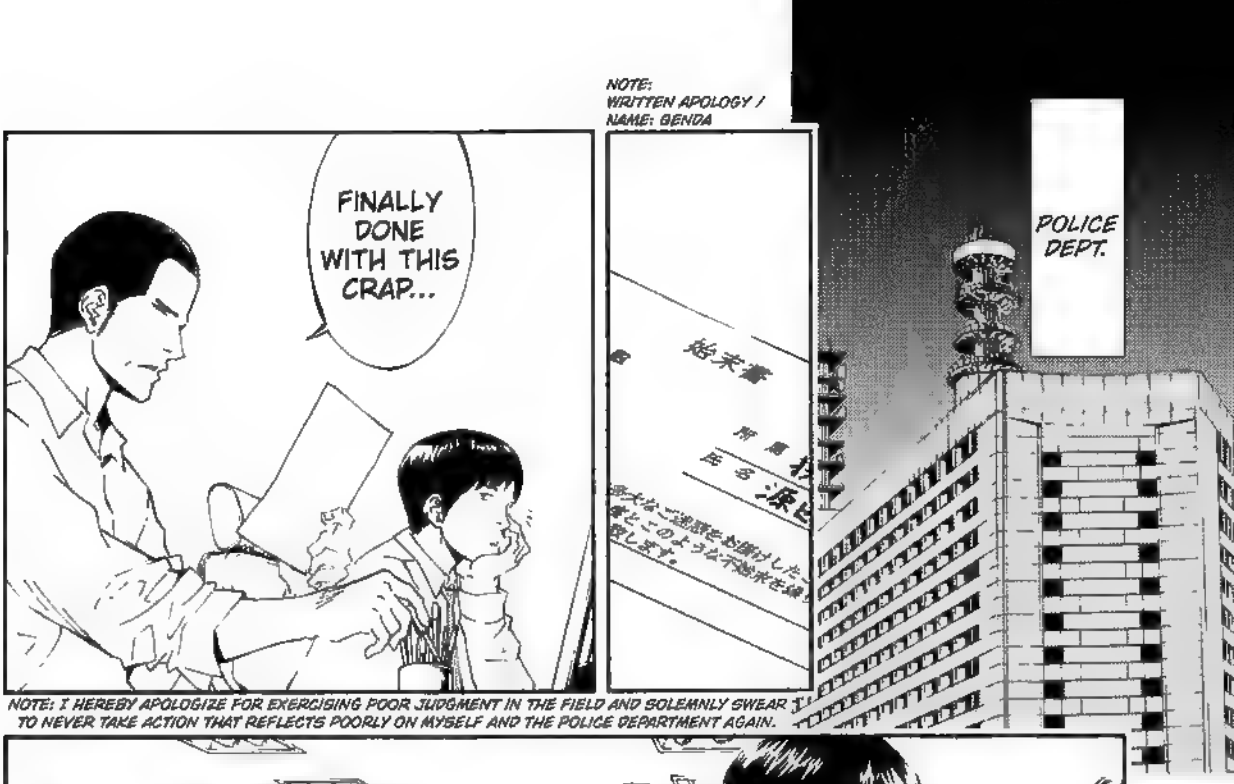

GUOOO (VRRMM)
GUSHAN (CRUSH)
GASHAN (CRASH)

HE'S GONE, SIR.

HURRY THE FUCK UP!
A- AFTER HIM!

BUOOOO (RRMM)
...

chapter 68

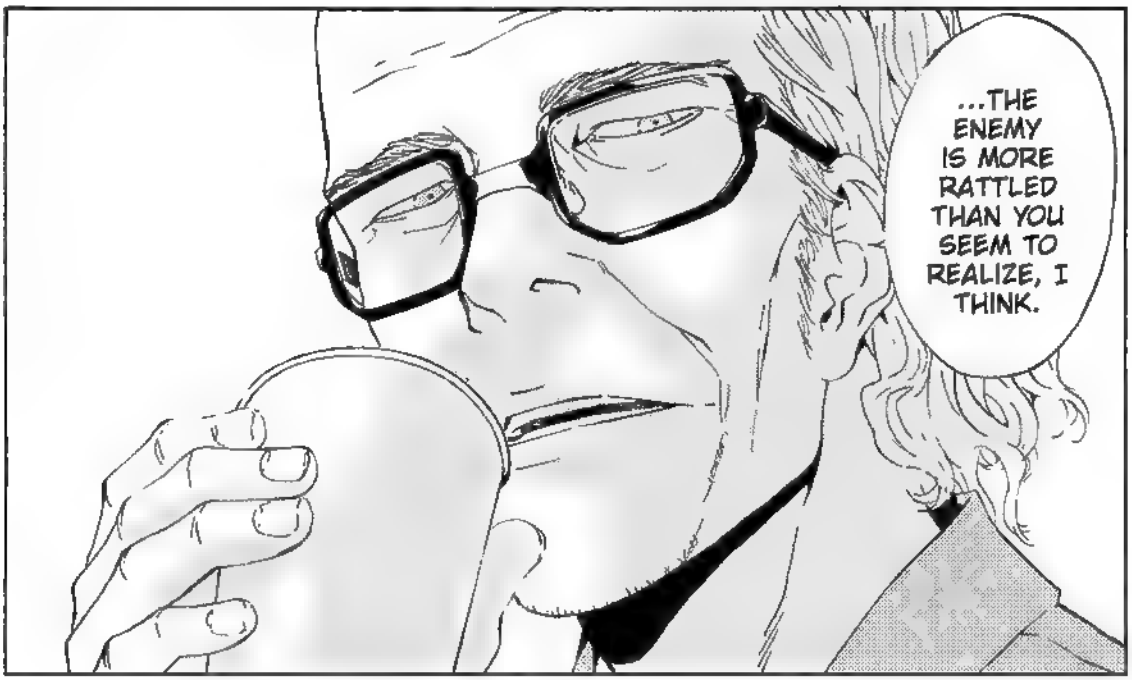

NOTE:
WRITTEN APOLOGY /
NAME: GENDA
FINALLY DONE WITH THIS CRAP...
POLICE DEPT.
NOTE: I HEREBY APOLOGIZE FOR EXERCISING POOR JUDGMENT IN THE FIELD AND SOLEMNLY SWEAR TO NEVER TAKE ACTION THAT REFLECTS POORLY ON MYSELF AND THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AGAIN.

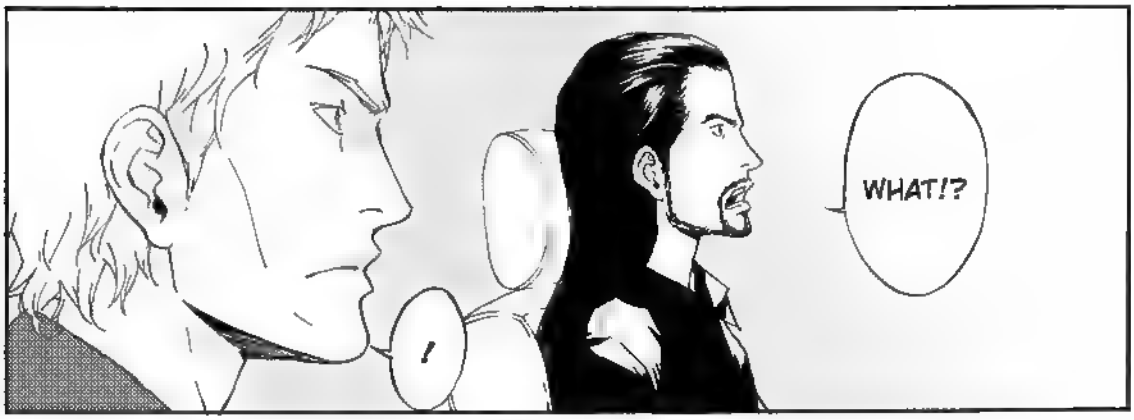
ABOUT TIME!
ガタッ
GATA (THUMP)

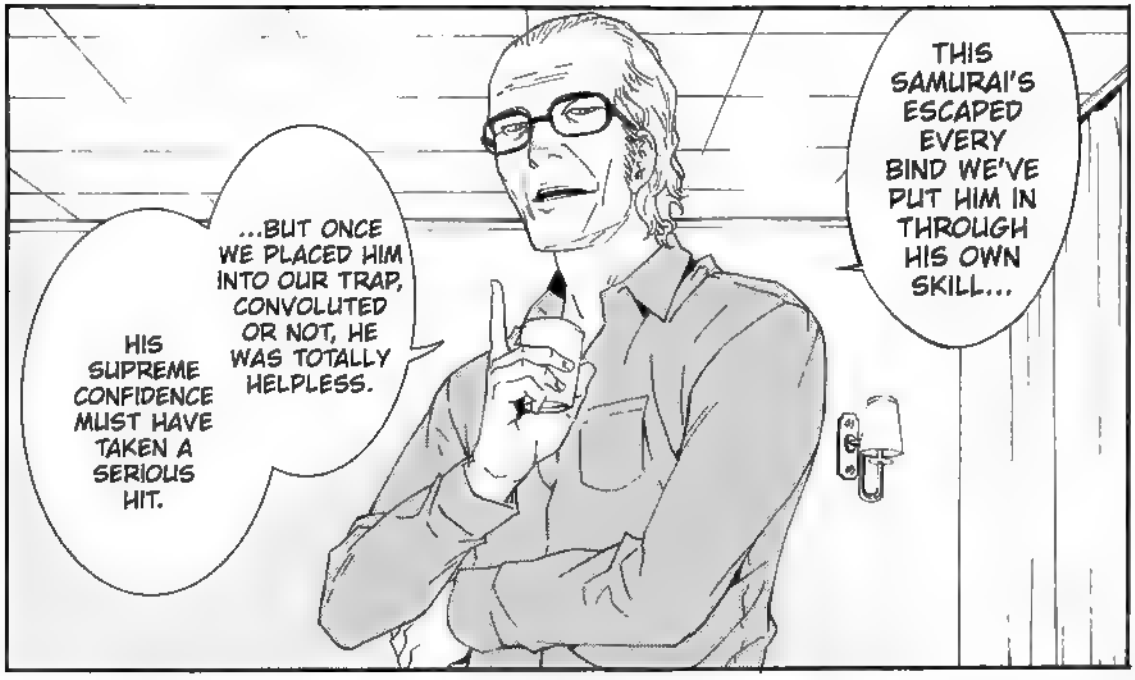
UH...YOU HEARD THAT CALL, RIGHT?
WHAT ARE YOU ALL WORKED UP ABOUT?

THEY'RE TRYING TO USE ME FOR SOME NEFARIOUS PURPOSE.
WHY ELSE WOULD WE GET AN ANONYMOUS CALL REQUESTING AN INDIVIDUAL COP?
I'M NOT FOLLOWING UP SUCH A FISHY LEAD.
WH... WHAAT?
IF SOMETHING ACTUALLY HAPPENS, WE'LL GET AN OFFICIAL CALL.
SO WAIT FOR THE SUMMONS.
...GOOD POINT...
SO WE STAY PUT.
BESIDES, WHATEVER IT IS WILL BE OVER BY THE TIME WE GET THERE.
...SMART ASS...

BOTTLE: YOI OCHA




WHAT!?
!


THIS SAMURAI'S ESCAPED EVERY BIND WE'VE PUT HIM IN THROUGH HIS OWN SKILL...
...BUT ONCE WE PLACED HIM INTO OUR TRAP, CONVOLUTED OR NOT, HE WAS TOTALLY HELPLESS.
HIS SUPREME CONFIDENCE MUST HAVE TAKEN A SERIOUS HIT.

AND... WHAT WOULD THAT BE...?

OF COURSE, THE POINT OF THIS PLAN IS SOMETHING ELSE ENTIRELY.

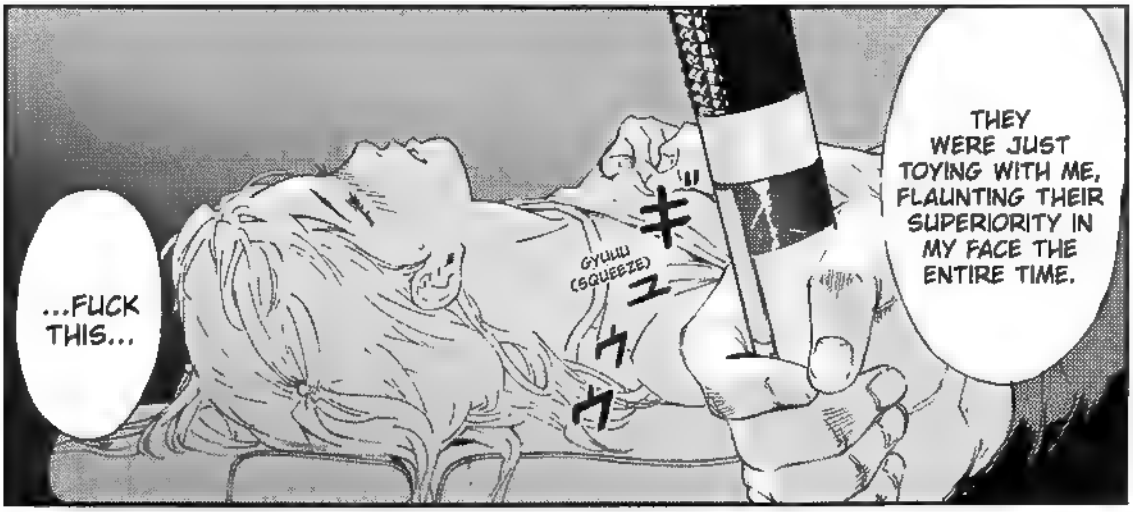
TO SHAKE THE ELEMENT NETWORK.
KUSHA (CRUNCH)
クシャ
OF COURSE.
I'M FAR MORE INTRIGUED BY THE UNKNOWN CONTOURS OF THIS MYSTERY ORGANIZATION.
SO IT SEEMS YOU'RE REALLY ONLY INTERESTED IN THE GROUP BEHIND THE MAN...

ブオオオオ
BUT I'LL TAKE A DETOUR AND CHANGE THE BODY COLOR, JUST IN CASE.
ANYONE FOLLOWING US!?
...NOPE.
...

WH... WHAT'S WRONG?

THEY WEREN'T DESPERATE TO KILL ME! THEY KNEW THEY HAD ME ALL ALONG...
THEY WERE GOING TO GRIND ME DOWN AND THEN DELIVER THE KILLING BLOW ONCE THEY'D TAKEN THEIR SWEET TIME.
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT'S WRONG! I WAS TRAPPED LIKE A RAT IN THERE! THEY COULD HAVE FINISHED ME OFF AT ANY TIME.

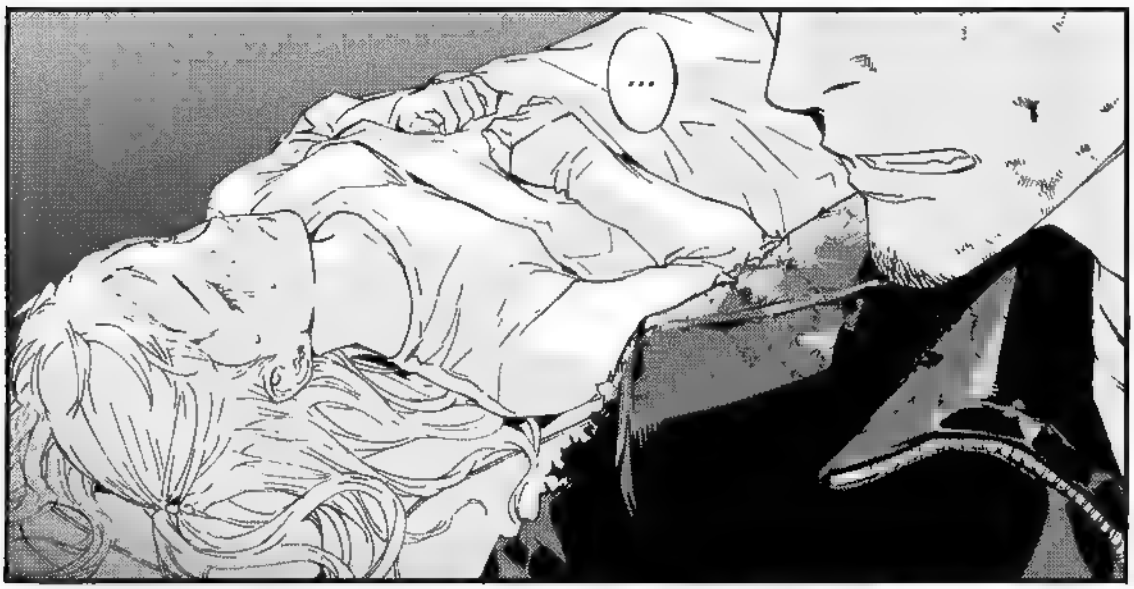
I'VE NEVER BEEN SO FUCKING INSULTED IN MY LIFE...
GIRI (GRIT)


...FUCK THIS...
GYUUU (SQUEEZE)
ギュウウ
THEY WERE JUST TOYING WITH ME, FLAUNTING THEIR SUPERIORITY IN MY FACE THE ENTIRE TIME.

...THEY HAD THE NUMBERS ON US, WITH A TRAP DESIGNED JUST FOR YOU.
THERE'S A LIMIT TO WHAT ONE MAN CAN DO ON HIS OWN.

SURE, BUT...

I CAN'T JUST CHANGE THE WAY I LIVE NOW.
THAT HASN'T STOPPED ME FROM FINDING A WAY BEFORE.



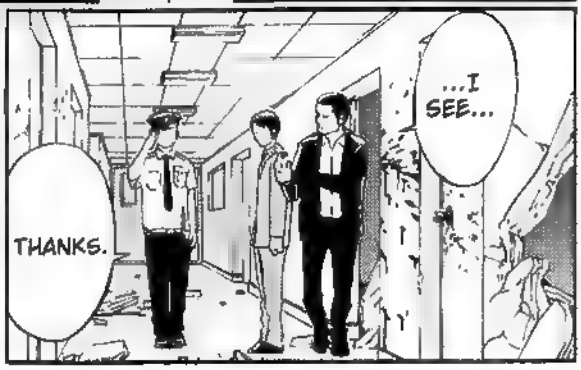
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
YOU SHOULDN'T POKE AROUND; FORENSICS HASN'T SHOWN UP YET.
...
TAKE IT EASY...
I'M JUST HAVING A QUICK LOOK. OBSERVING THE MARKS OF BATTLE HERE LETS YOU PUT TOGETHER A MENTAL PICTURE OF WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT, SEE?
UHH... NO, NOT FOR NORMAL PEOPLE...

OFFICER GENDA?

ONE OF THE ADDICTS WHO GOT SLASHED HAS DIED OF BLOOD LOSS.
WE JUST GOT WORD FROM THE HOSPITAL.

THEREFORE, THIS IS NOW OFFICIALLY TO BE INVESTIGATED AS A MURDER.

SO HERE WE ARE.
HE'S FINALLY KILLED A MAN...

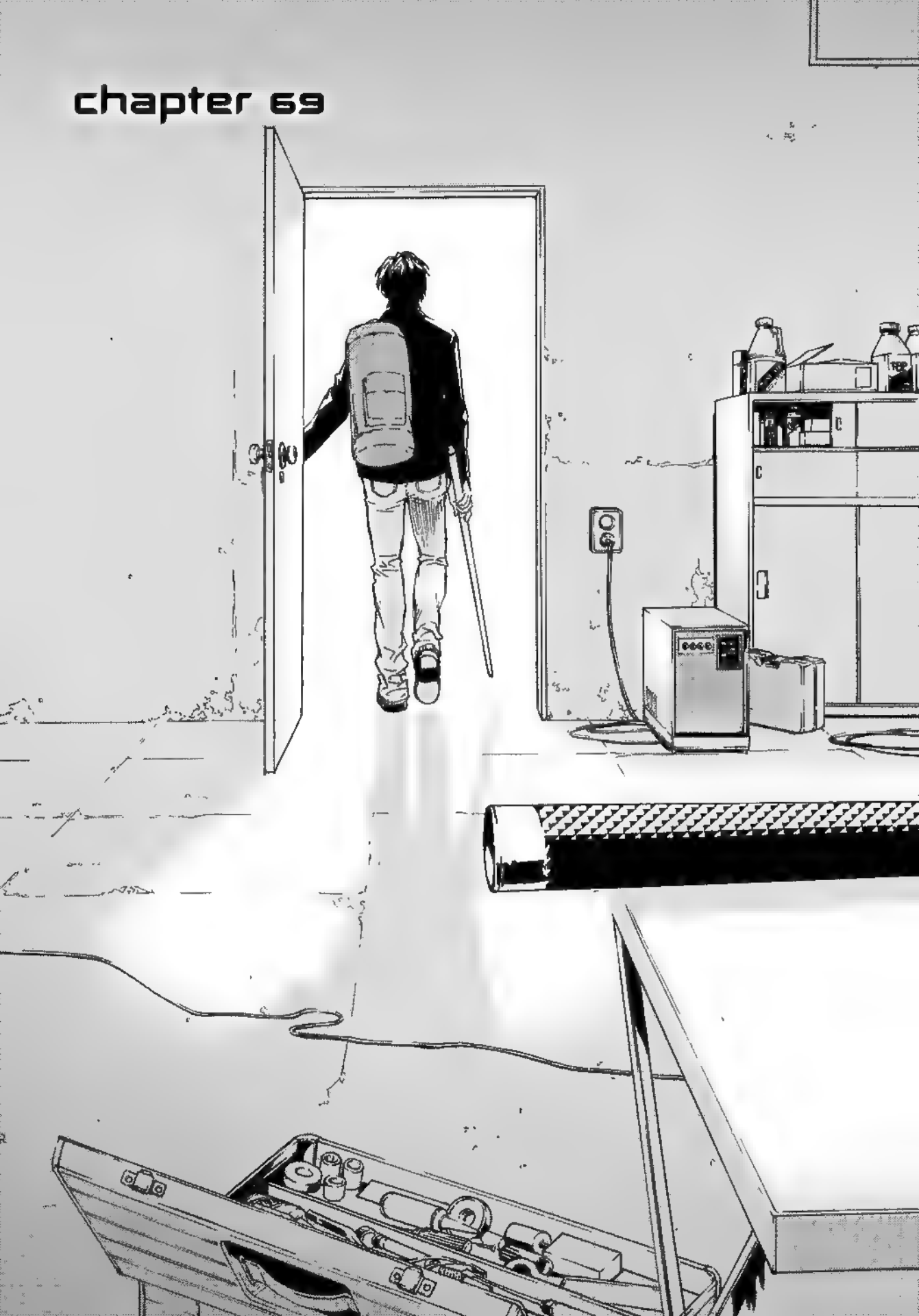

...I SEE...
THANKS.

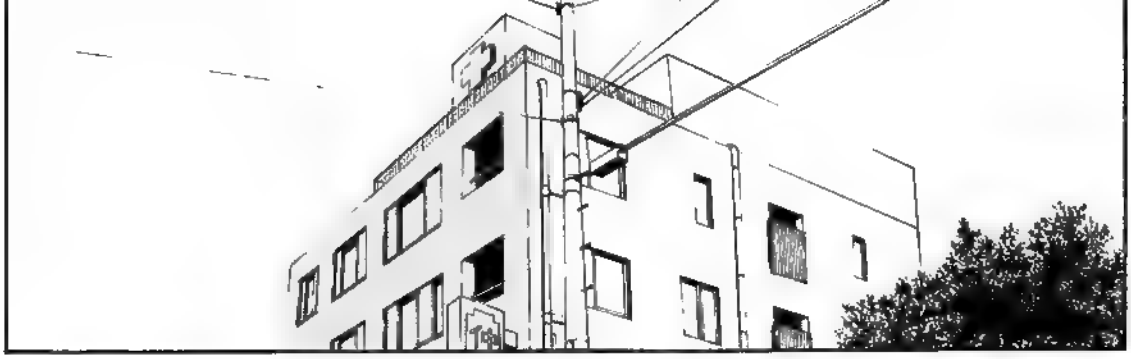
GENDA-SAN...
...
ガチ!
GACHI! (CLICK)

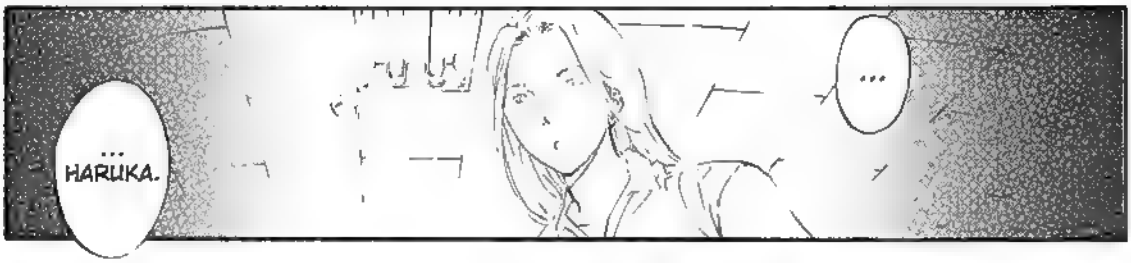
JIII
(ZIP)
ZA
(MARCH)

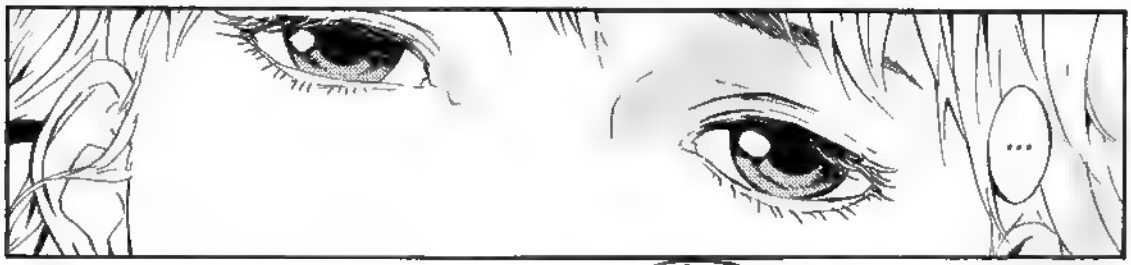
Until
Death
do us
Part

chapter 69






...
...
HARUKA.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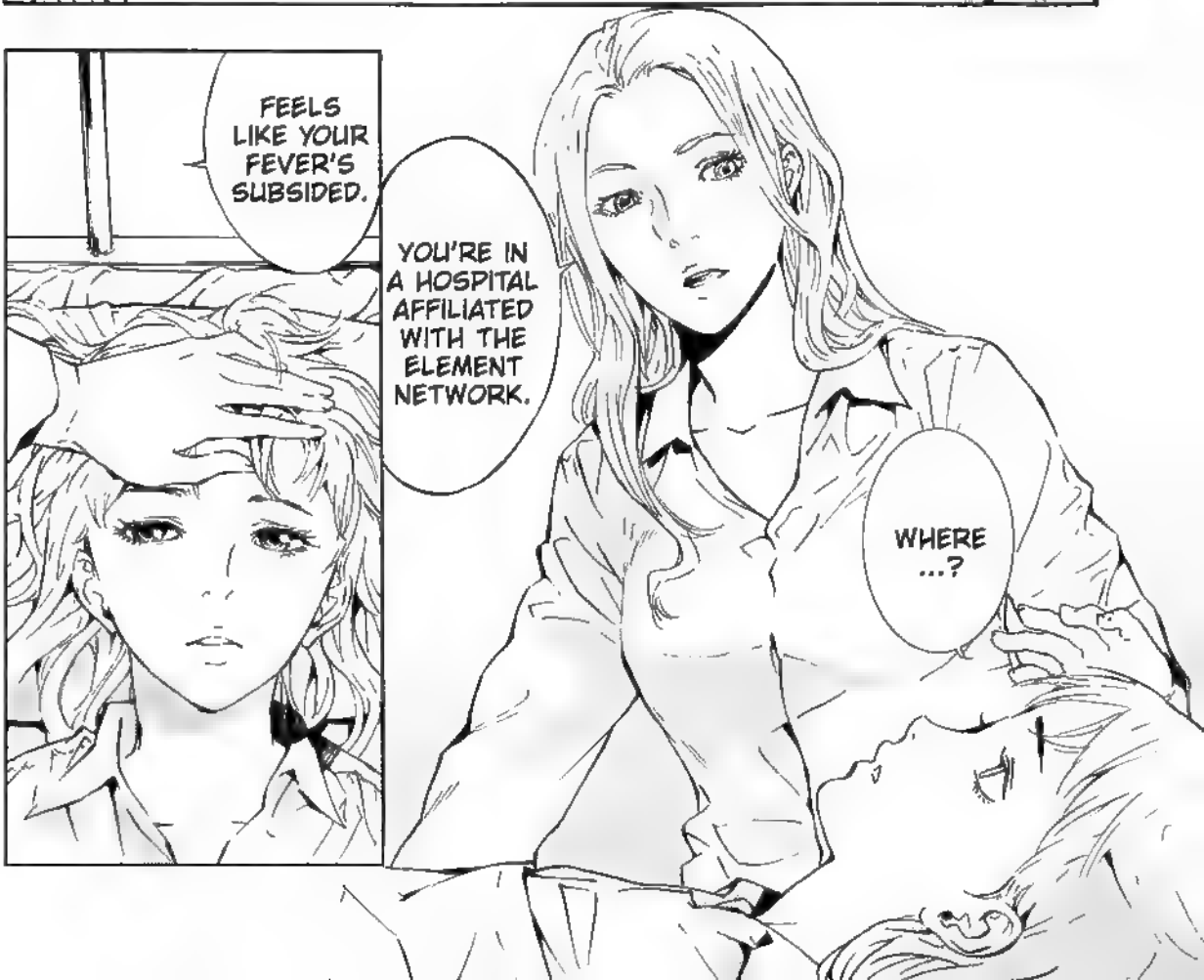

FEELS LIKE YOUR FEVER'S SUBSIDED.
YOU'RE IN A HOSPITAL AFFILIATED WITH THE ELEMENT NETWORK.
WHERE ...?

YOU WERE BROUGHT RIGHT HERE.
BUT... YESTER-DAY...
I'M FINE. THEY'RE DISCHARG-ING ME SOON.
WHAT ABOUT YOU? IS IT SAFE FOR YOU TO BE UP AND ABOUT NOW?
ガチャ
GACHA (CLICK)
ダダダダダ
DA (DASH) DA DA DA DA
NO RUNNING IN THE HALL!
S-SORRY!
?

IGAWA-SAN!?
HE... HE'S NOT HERE!?
WHATEVER, WE'VE GOT BIGGER PROBLEMS NOW!
HONESTLY, I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D BE SO BEREFT OF COMMON SENSE...

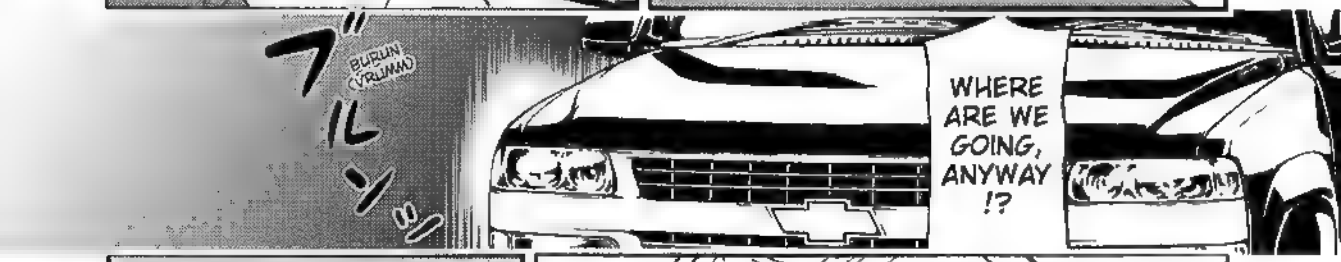
MAMORU LEFT THESE BEHIND AND DISAP-PEARED.
!?
WHAT HAP-PENED !?
UMM, WELL...
WHAT DID YOU SAY!?
HUH !?
SU (RISE)

...
UMM ...
AH ...
...

BA (WHOOSH)
HARU-KA?
SUTA (TEK)
スタ
MY FEVER'S GONE.
SUTA
スタ
GACHA (CLICK)
ガチャ
SURU (SLIP)
スル
UH...
HELLO !?

HEY!
バタン!
BATAN (SLAM)
ドン
DON (SHOVE)
WHAT'S UP!?
...
IF HE LEAVES ME BEHIND LIKE THIS...
...I MIGHT NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN...

YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY!?
JUST HURRY, IGAWA-SAN!


ブルン
BURUN (VRUMM)
WHERE ARE WE GOING, ANYWAY !?

HUH !?
IT'S BEEN TWO HOURS SINCE I STARTED SEARCHING FOR HIM. YOU REALLY THINK HE'LL BE IN A PLACE LIKE THAT?

UMM...
TOKYO STATION.

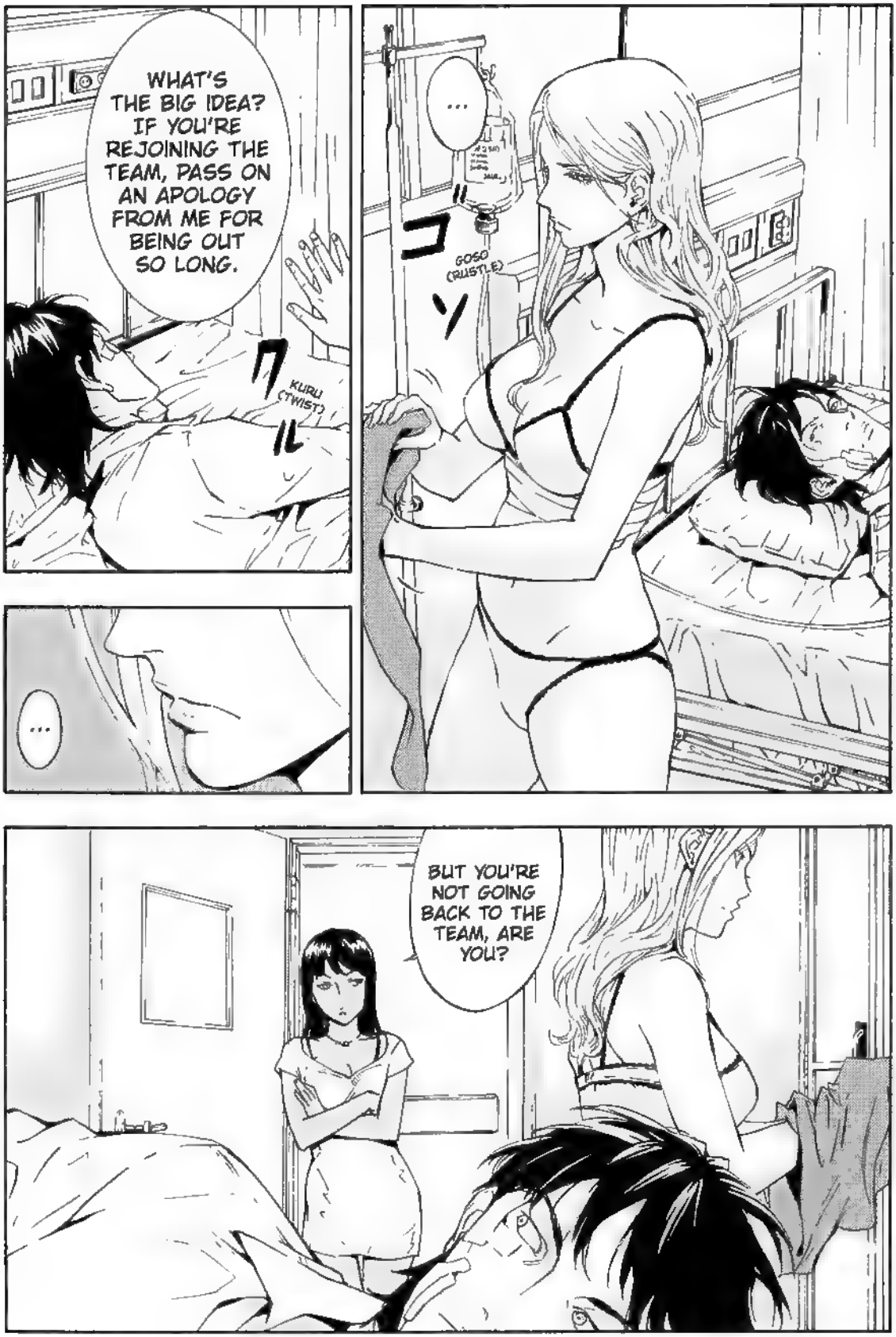
!?
GOOD POINT...
AND HE'S NOT THE TYPE TO ASK OTHERS FOR HELP.
NO, WE CAN TRACK HIM DOWN IN TIME. REMEMBER, MAMORU-SAN IS BLIND RIGHT NOW.
LET'S GUN IT!
...

...
MAMORU-SAN...

GACHA (CLICK)
ガチャ
...?

I'M LEAVING THE HOSPITAL.

WHAT'S UP, SERENA?

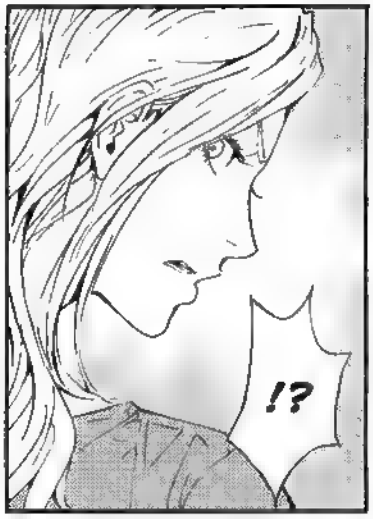

WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA? IF YOU'RE REJOINING THE TEAM, PASS ON AN APOLOGY FROM ME FOR BEING OUT SO LONG.
KURU (TWIST)
...
GOSO (RUST...E)
...
BUT YOU'RE NOT GOING BACK TO THE TEAM, ARE YOU?

...
KACHA (CLINK)
カチャ
カチャ
KACHA
MUKU (RISE)
ムクッ
WHAT !?
HARUKA WENT AFTER MAMORU.
TURN IN THE DISCHARGE PAPERWORK FOR ME.
H-HEY!
I STILL CAN'T IMAGINE THAT HE'LL PROVIDE HER WITH A HAPPY LIFE.
I HAVE TO BE STRONGER. I HAVE TO PROTECT HER MYSELF.

...
I HAVE TO BE TOUGH ENOUGH TO FIGHT ON MY OWN.
IF I'M GOING TO DO THAT, I CAN'T STAY ON THE TEAM ANY LONGER.
YOU'RE SERIOUSLY GOING TO DO ALL OF THAT, JUST FOR A SINGLE GIRL?
...ARE YOU RETARDED ?
YOU STAY OUT OF THIS.

WHY DON'T YOU SPEND YOUR TIME MEANINGFULLY? GET BACK WITH KILO AND HAVE ANOTHER KID.
IT HAS TO BEAT CELEBRATING YOUR DEAD DAUGHTER'S BIRTHDAY.

BOSU (THUMP)
ボス

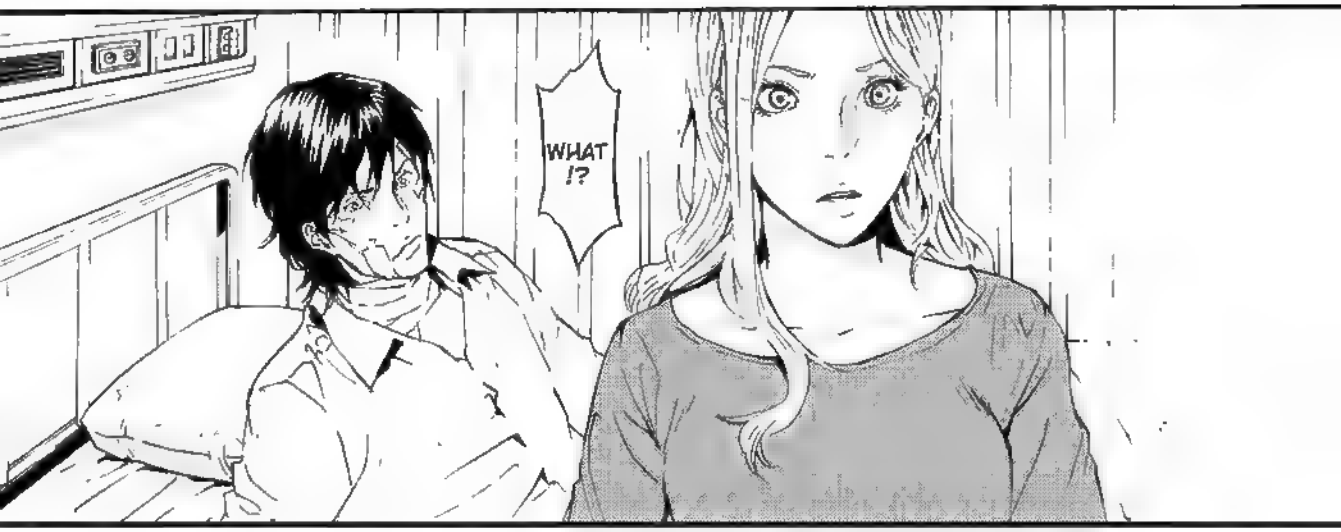

!?

GA (GRAB)
ガッ
IF YOU'VE GOT A PROBLEM WITH ME, SPIT IT OUT!
YOU'RE JUST WASTING YOUR TIME WITH ALL THESE QUIPS!

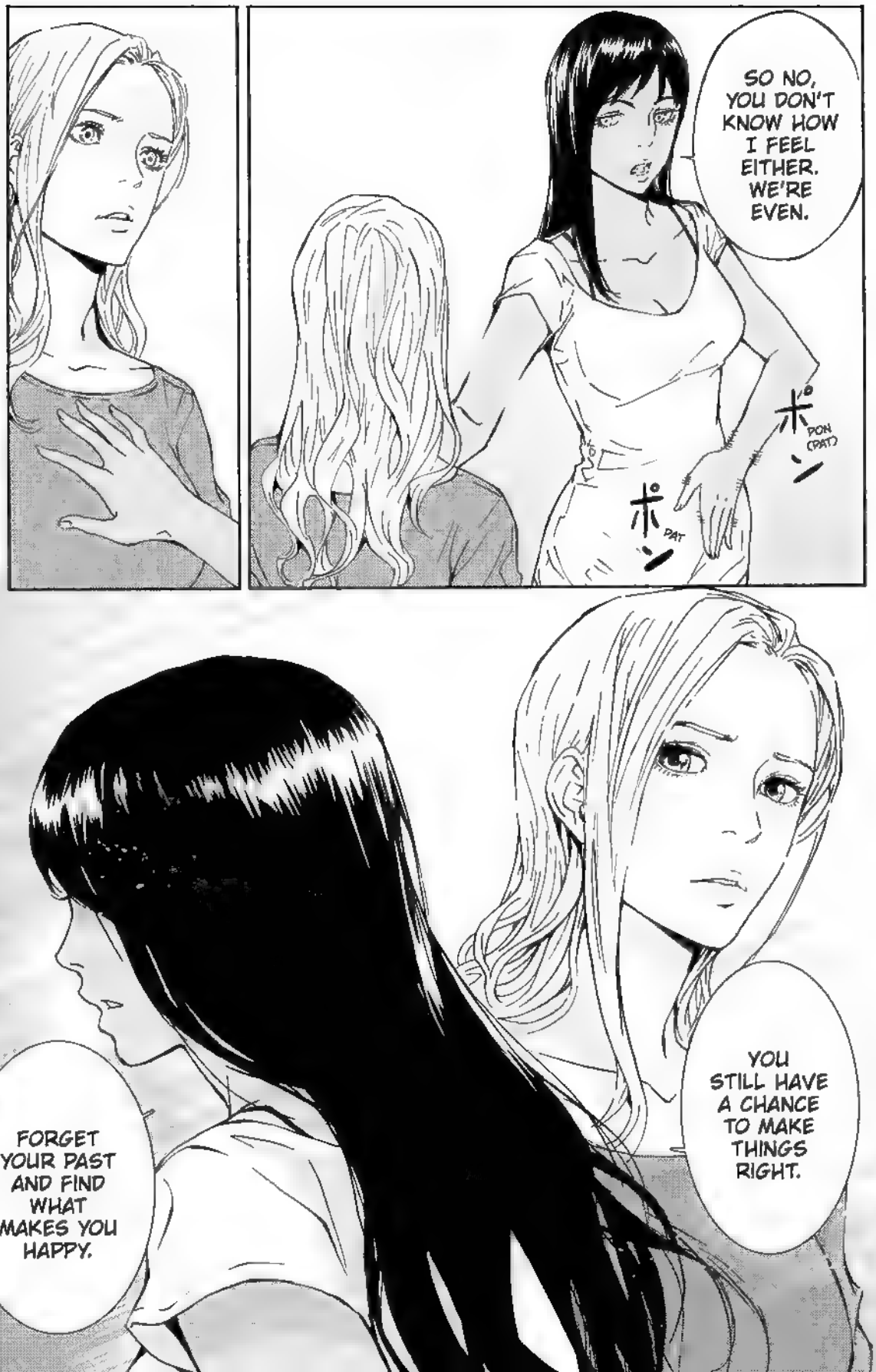
...
HA-HA! DID I STRIKE A NERVE, OLD MAID?
H-HEY...
BUN (WHOOSH)
BA (DODGE)
BASHI (SMACK)
GA (GRAB)
BYUO (FWOOM)

BA
(LEAP)

I CAN'T. I'LL NEVER KNOW— I CAN'T HAVE CHILDREN.
HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY UNDER-STAND HOW I FEEL!?


WHAT!?

GA (WHACK)
ガッ
AND SURPRISE, GUESS WHAT I CAN'T DO NOW?
THIS SICKO CUT ME UP WITH A KNIFE DOWN THERE.


SO NO, YOU DON'T KNOW HOW I FEEL EITHER. WE'RE EVEN.
ポン PON (PAT)
ポン PAT
YOU STILL HAVE A CHANCE TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT.
FORGET YOUR PAST AND FIND WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY.

...
SO LONG.
...

TOKYO STATION
ガチャ
GACHA (CLICK)
H-HEY!
キキッ
KIKI (SCREECH)
TOKYO STATION
タタッ
TA (TEK)
TA

AW, DAMN ...
BETTER FIND PARK-ING.
HAA (HUFF)
ハアー
HAA
ハアー

chapter 70

SASA (SNEAK)
STOP HIDING. COME ON OUT...

IS YOUR FEVER GONE?

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

WHERE ARE YOU GOING !?

IT WAS AN ACCIDENT... IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT!
THEY WERE A BAD MATCH FOR YOU...

DO YOU REALLY THINK I'M GONNA USE THAT AS AN EXCUSE?

I UNDER-STAND THAT IT WAS ONLY THANKS TO YOU THAT I SURVIVED...

THERE ARE NO EXCUSES WHEN IT COMES TO WAR.
IF A MAN NEEDS SOME-ONE ELSE TO SAVE HIS ASS, THAT'S HIS FAULT.

I'LL GO WITH YOU!
IT'S NOT THE KIND OF PLACE A GIRL FRESH OUT OF THE HOSPITAL SHOULD BE GOING!
Please stand back behind the white line...
The train to Hachi-nohe will arrive on Line 28 shortly.

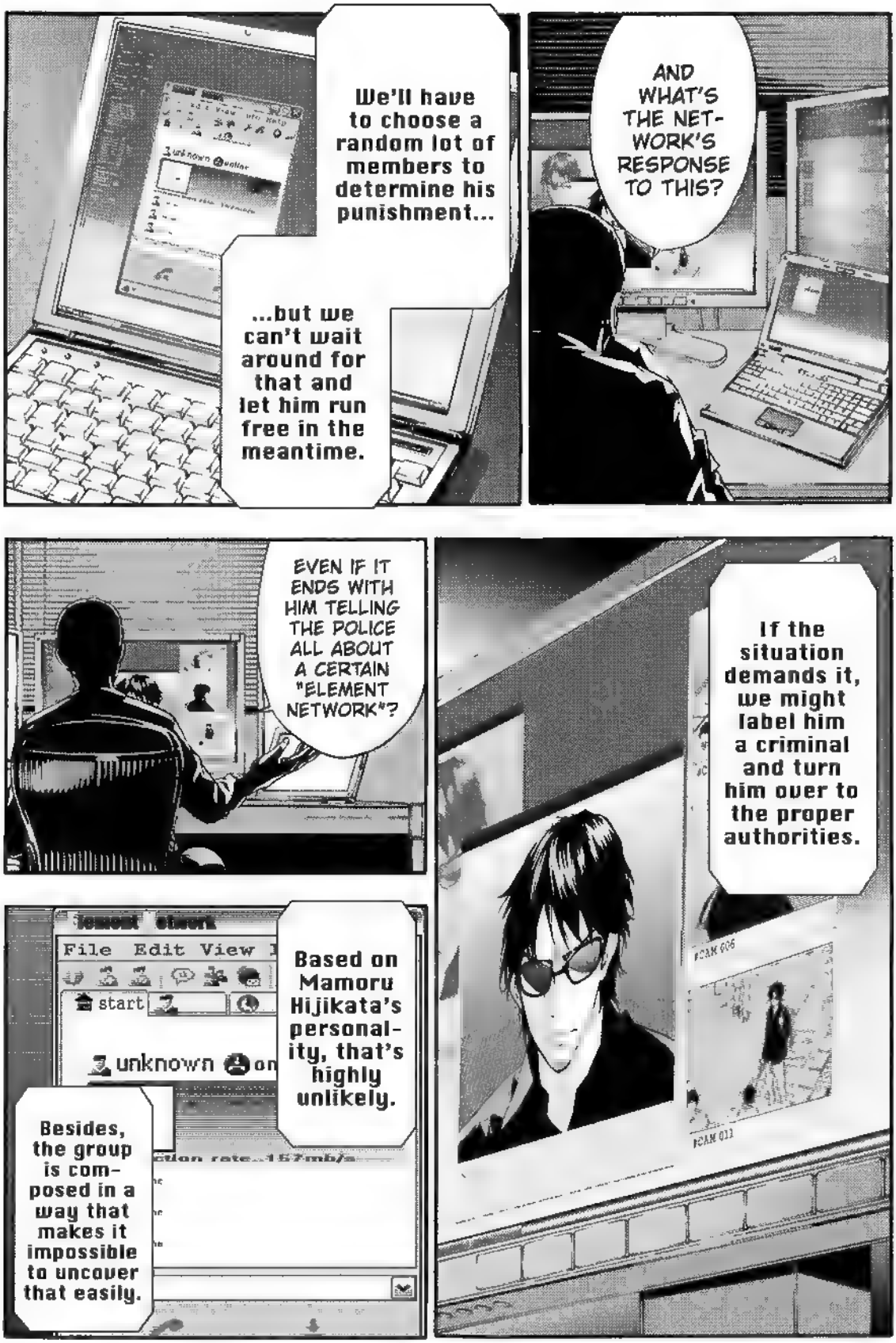
I'M COMING WITH YOU!
SO THAT'S WHAT I'M GOING TO DO!
YOU TAUGHT ME HOW TO LIVE BY FACING DANGER HEAD-ON!
...

GOHHH
CHHHHH
GAYA
CHURMURU
ガヤ
GAYA
ガヤ

Image processing >>>>>
(BEEP)
#CAM 006
#CAM 006
#CAM 011
00.00.04
The entire world already knows his face.
unknown online
connection rate..157mb/s
And after such a disastrous perfor-mance...
YOU SURE YOU WANT TO PASTE HIS FACE UP LIKE THAT?

...this could be seen as a penalty for his choice to go rogue and leave his position.

HE WAS ALREADY ATTACKED TWICE ON THE WAY TO TOKYO STATION.
TURUS HAS HIM RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF HIS NET.


We'll have to choose a random lot of members to determine his punishment...
...but we can't wait around for that and let him run free in the meantime.
AND WHAT'S THE NETWORK'S RESPONSE TO THIS?
EVEN IF IT ENDS WITH HIM TELLING THE POLICE ALL ABOUT A CERTAIN "ELEMENT NETWORK"?
If the situation demands it, we might label him a criminal and turn him over to the proper authorities.
Based on Mamoru Hijikata's personality, that's highly unlikely.
Besides, the group is composed in a way that makes it impossible to uncover that easily.
File Edit View
start
unknown
SCAN 006
SCAN 011

#CAM 006
トン
TON (TAP)
IN THAT CASE, SEND A MESSAGE TO THE GROUP...
CAM 011
WE OUGHT TO THINK OF THE FUTURE OF THE GIRL ACCOMPANYING HIM.

UGH ...
IRA (GRRRR)
IRA
OF ALL THE TIMES FOR TRAFFIC ...
P
RRRRR
RRRRR
HARUKA? WHAT'S UP?
I'M SORRY ABOUT THIS.
I FOUND MAMORU-SAN...

...BUT I'VE DECIDED I'M GOING WITH HIM.
WHAAAAT?
GOHHH (WHOOSH)
PLEASE DON'T WORRY ABOUT US. WE'LL COME BACK WHEN IT'S OVER.

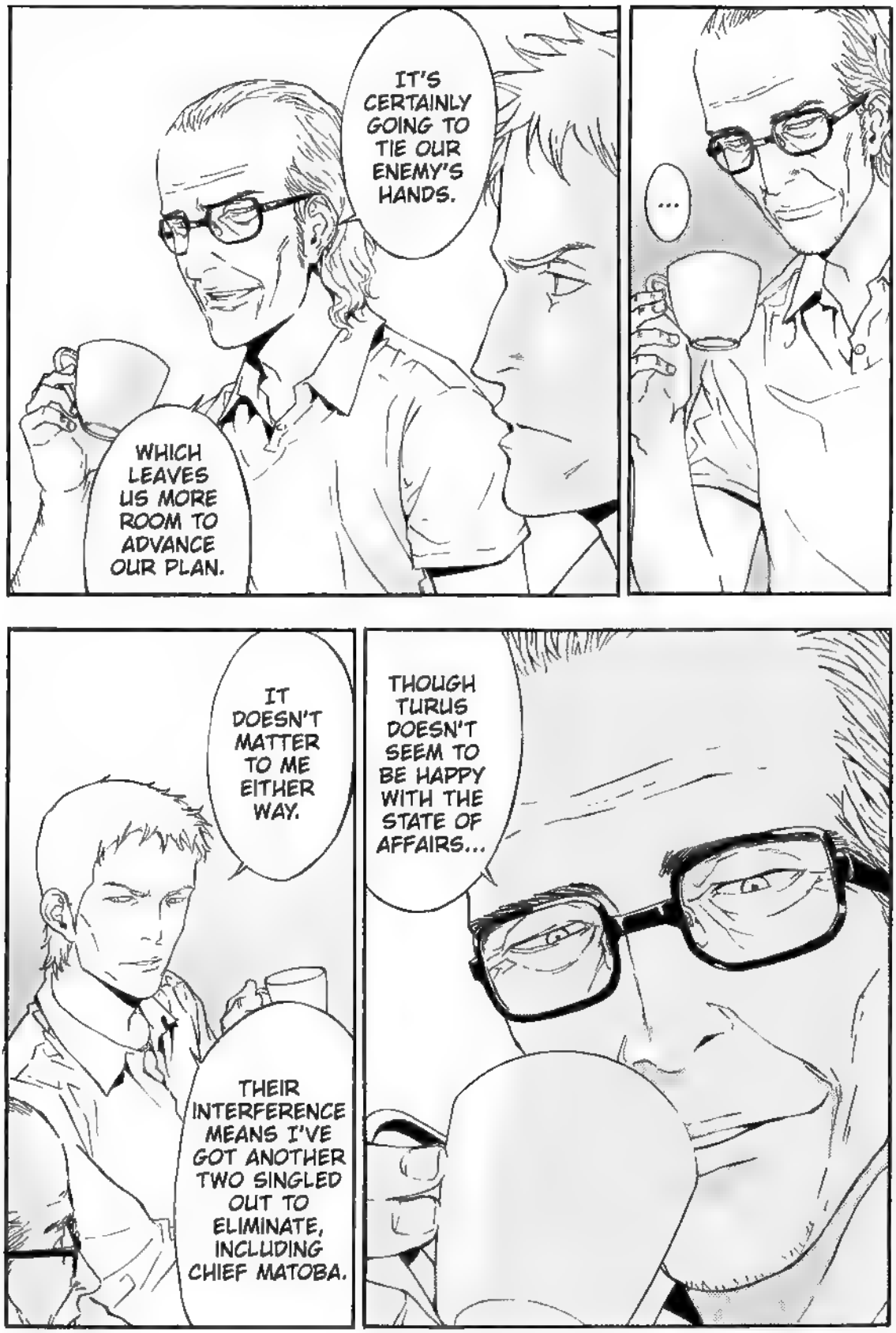
...
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
SU (GRAB)
スッ
... Hello !?
A SECRET !?
I think it's supposed to be a secret ...
PATAN (FLIP)
パターン
KEEP THINGS UNDER CONTROL WHILE I'M GONE.

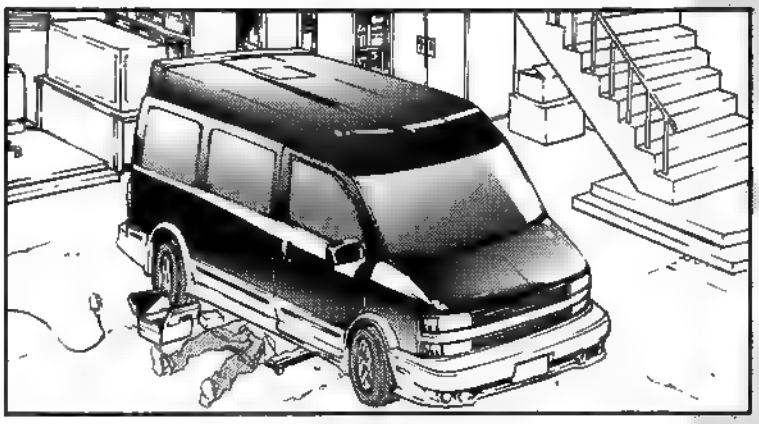
...THE ELEMENT NETWORK ISN'T GOING TO TAKE KINDLY TO THIS...
HE HAS TO KNOW ...
HEY... DAMMIT!
FUCKIN' A!
PAA (HONK)
PAA
OH, SHUT UP ALREADY !!
PAA
PUU
PUU (HONK)

WHY IS EVERY DAMN PERSON AROUND HERE...
...SO DAMN SELFISH ALL THE DAMN TIME!?
KI (SCREECH)
KI
KI
KI
BUDOO (VROOM)

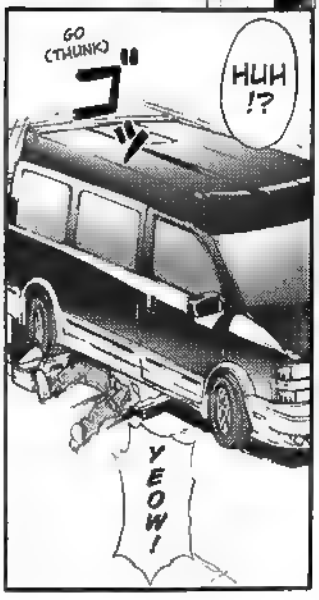
МНК
The violent incident that broke out last night in Tokyo...
...is being probed for connections to the melee in Shinjuku Gyoen last month.
Investigators are exploring this possible link based on the fact...
...that the primary weapon in both cases appears to be a katana.
Last night's attack left two fatalities ...

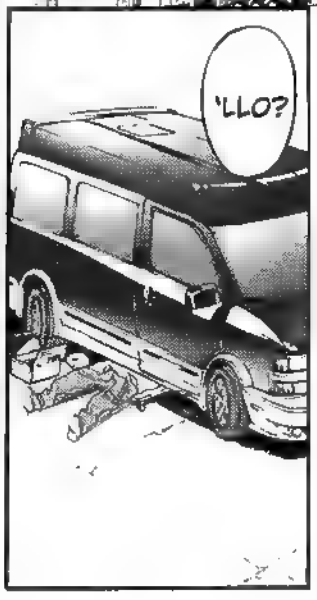
...both of whom died of blood loss due to massive lacerations.
IT'S ALREADY A BAD ENOUGH SITUATION AS IT IS...
SO THIS MEANS THE POLICE ARE GOING TO TURN ON HIM, DOESN'T IT?
...
KACHA CLINK


IT'S CERTAINLY GOING TO TIE OUR ENEMY'S HANDS.
WHICH LEAVES US MORE ROOM TO ADVANCE OUR PLAN.
...
IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME EITHER WAY.
THEIR INTERFERENCE MEANS I'VE GOT ANOTHER TWO SINGLED OUT TO ELIMINATE, INCLUDING CHIEF MATOBA.
THOUGH TURUS DOESN'T SEEM TO BE HAPPY WITH THE STATE OF AFFAIRS...



THREE WEEKS LATER ...

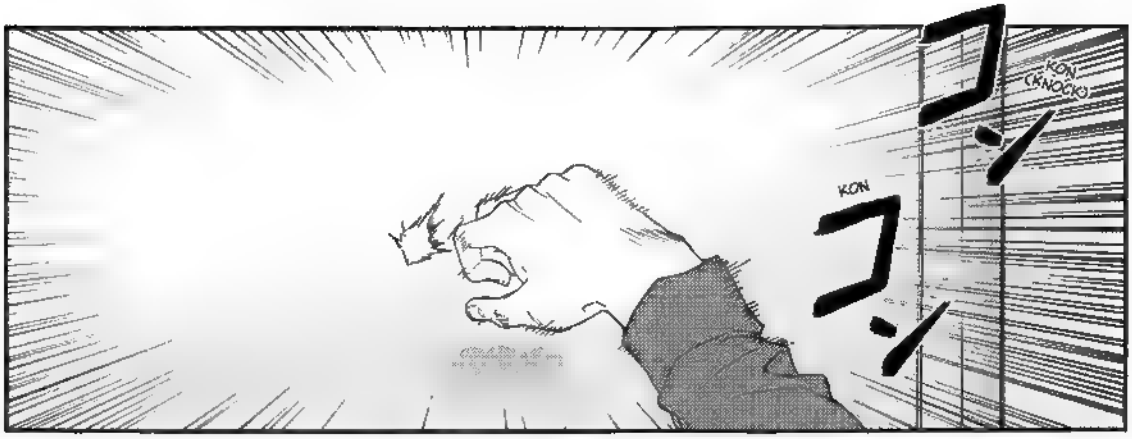




Where have you been !?
NO TIME. I WANT YOU TO DO SOMETHING FOR ME RIGHT NOW.

WHAT...? ARE YOU KIDDING ME!?

...


コン
KON (KNOCK)
KON
コン

WE'VE GOT TROU-BLE!
ガチャ
GACHA (CLICK)

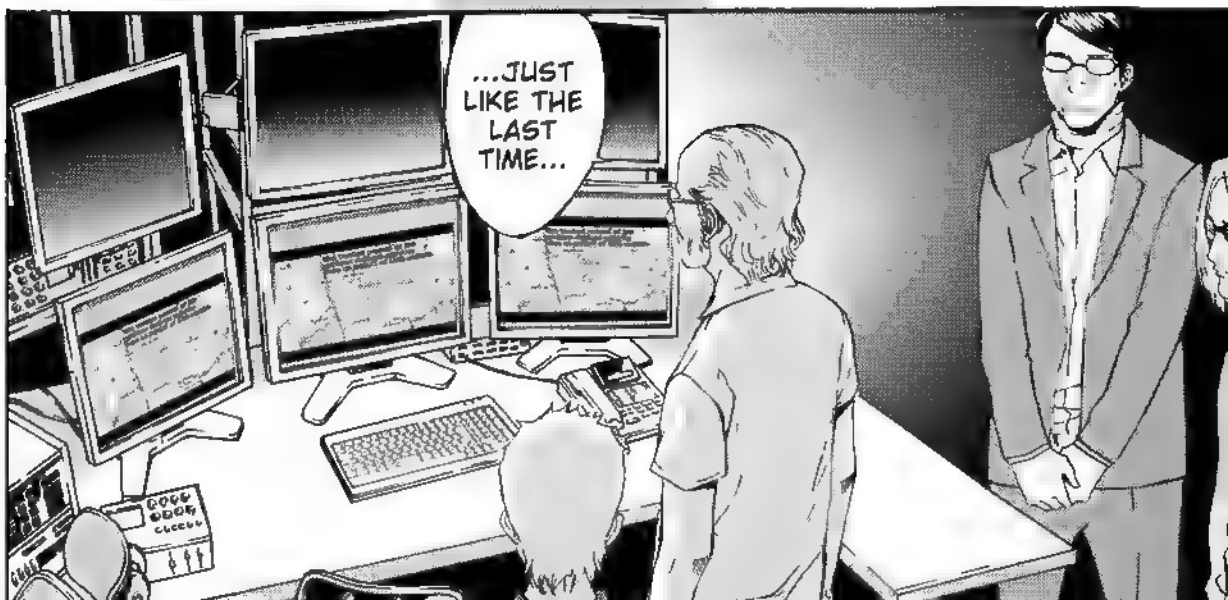
KON
コン
KON
コン
KON
コン
COME IN...

?

IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO BE SO EXCITED.
YOU NEED TO COME RIGHT NOW AND SEE THIS.

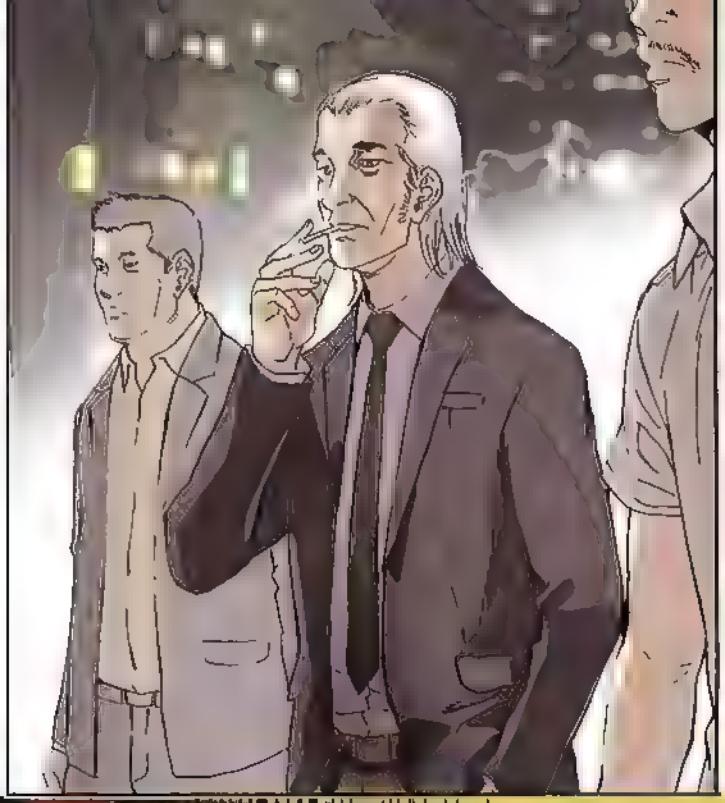
PR1Z3N3CK
File Edit View Go Bookmarks Tools Help
http://www.prizonect.com/
PR1Z3N3CK
I will appear here
at 2:00AM on August 11th.
Nishishinjuku
Shinjukueki
Tocho-mae
Shinjuku
Shinjukusanchome
SHINJUKU(1)
Shinjukuyoan-mae
Yotsuyasanchome
AIZUMICHO
ARAKICHO
FUNAMACHI
SAKAMACHI
HONSHIOCHO
DAIKYOCHO
SUGACHO
YOTSUYA(1)
Yotsuya
WAKABA(1)
MINAMI-MOTOMACHI
Minamishinjuku
Yoyogi
YOYOGI(1)
Sanzubashi
Kokuritsukyogijo
Shinanomachi
KASUMIGAOKAMACHI
SENDAGAYA(1)
Done

I WILL APPEAR HERE AT 2:00 A.M. ON AUGUST 11TH.


...JUST LIKE THE LAST TIME...

YES, BUT...
...THIS TIME, IT'S SET FOR TWO IN THE MORNING, THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.
will appear here
at 2:00AM on August 11th
...I SEE...
SO IT'S A CHALLENGE TO US...
BUT THIS TIME...
...HE'S GIVING US A HEADS-UP IN ADVANCE.

HEH-HEH... IT'S ON. HE'S HAD THREE WEEKS TO COOK UP NEW TRICKS OR SKILLS.
LET'S FIND OUT HOW MUCH DIFFERENCE THAT KIND OF TIME WILL REALLY MAKE.



chapter 71

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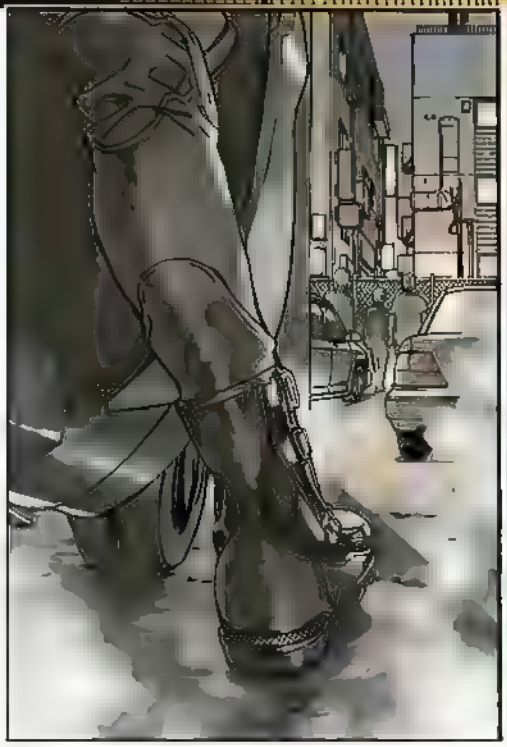


chapter 71

chapter 71

SU
SH SH
SASA
(MARCH)
WHAT
THE
HELL
!?
WHA
...
?
!!
SHIT!
DA
(DASH)
ZU
(SHOVE)
AAH!

SHIT!
CHA (CLICK)
SEE YOU IN THE NEXT LIFE!!
W-WAIT ...
BOSS !?
WH-WHAT THE FUCK ...
IT'S GOTTA BE ME THIS TIME.
BASHI (WHAP)
HNG !?
GASHAA (CLACK)
KA (CLICK)

IF YOU WANNA DIE, KEEP IT UP.
WH-WHAT THE HELL!?
WHEN DID HE —!?
IF YOU DON'T, BETTER SETTLE DOWN AND CONTROL YOURSELF.
A SILENT BIKE ...?
NO WONDER I NEVER HEARD HIM...
HYUN (SWISH)

SU (SUH)
KYUN (WHIRR)
PUSHUU (PSHH)
GORO (RUMBLE)

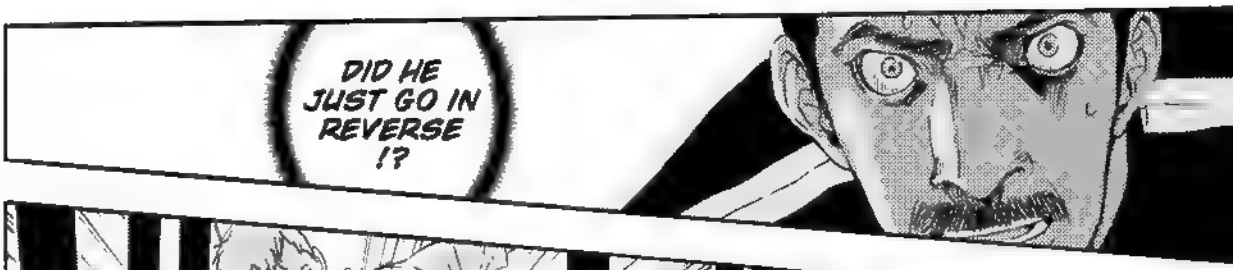
GUH!
DON (SHOVE)
AAAH!
HYUO (WHOOSH)
KIN (KTING)
GUO (VREE)
PA (RATTA)
PA
PA
PA

DO
(WHAM)
PA
PA
PA
DOKAA
(THWHAP)
トガアッ

KI
KI
KI
PA
(RATTA)
PA
PA
PA
KI
(SCREEE)
KIN
(CLINK)
KIN
KI
KI
KI
KI
KI
KI
BO
(FWOOSH)
ボ
ン!

DO (WHAM)
PA
KIN
KAN (CLANK)
KIN
PA
PA
AAH!
DOGA (THWJD)
PA
PA
PA
DGH!
BUO— (VWW)
TSK!
BA (SWISH)

HYUN
(SWISH)


DID HE JUST GO IN REVERSE !?

DOGA
(THUD)

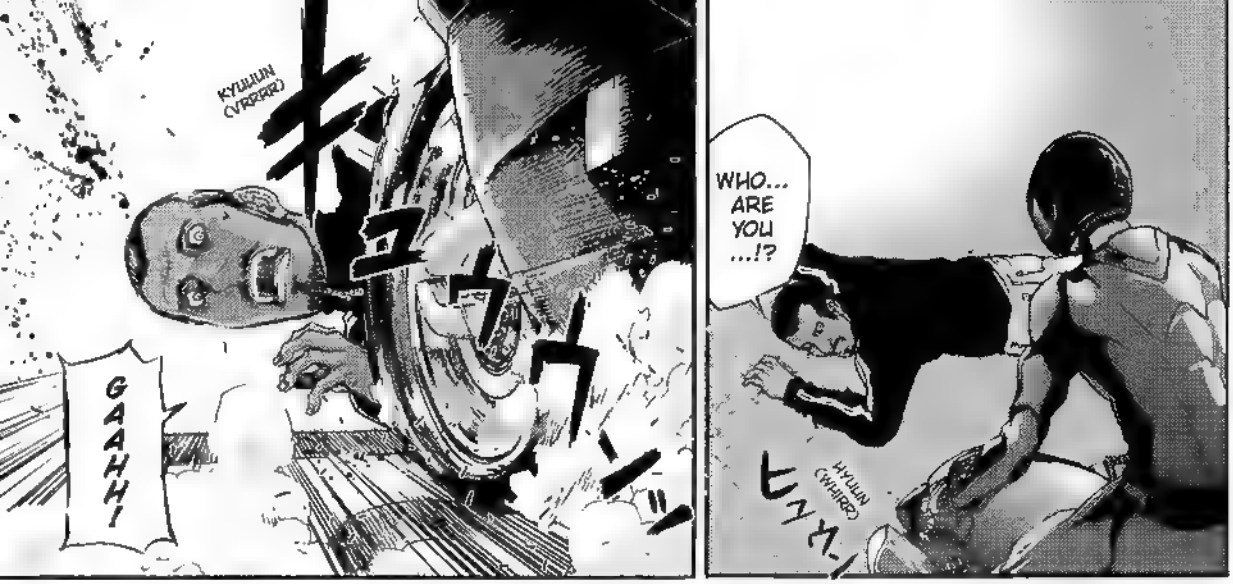
!?
HYUUU
(WHOOSH)

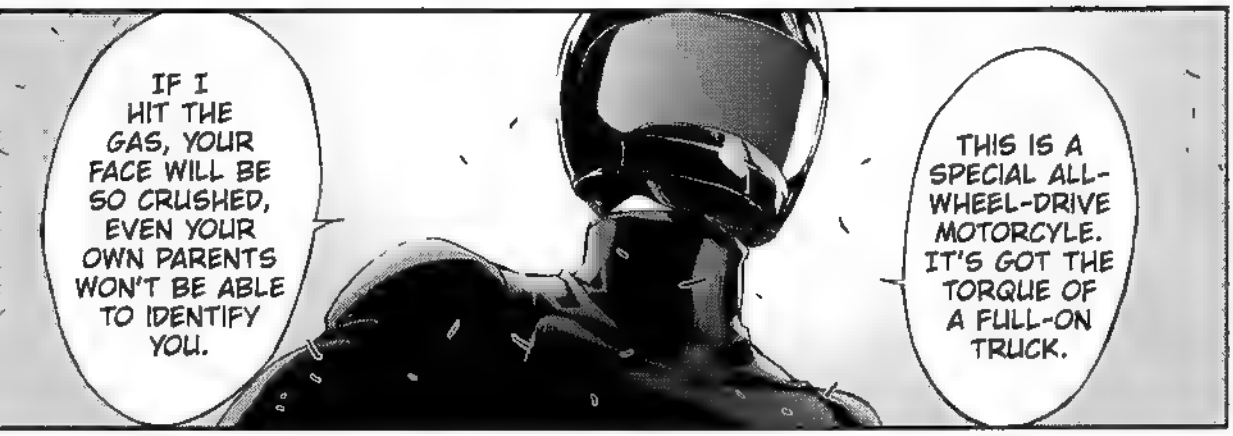
WHAT THE HELL KIND OF BIKE IS THAT!?
DOSA (THUD)
KI
KI
KI
PA (RATTA)
PA
PA
PA
KIN
KIN
KIN (CLINK)
KIN

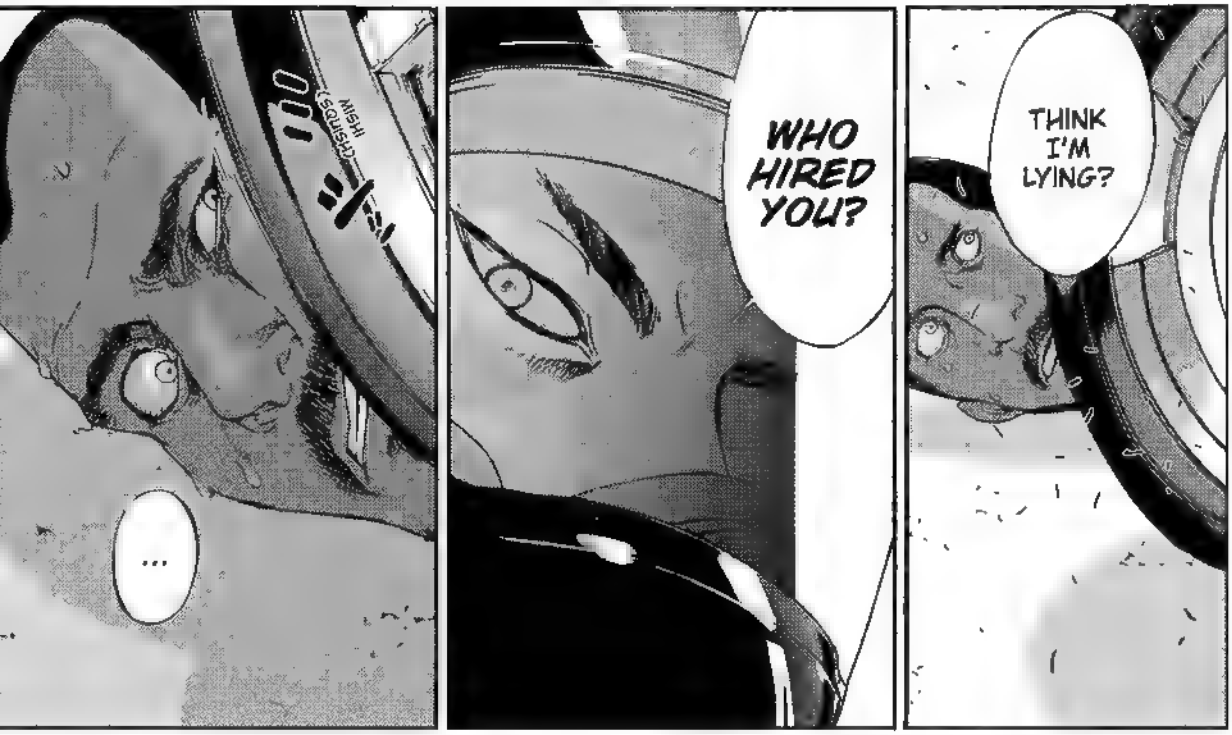
GYAN
(GORRANG)

GYAN
(GRRRANG)

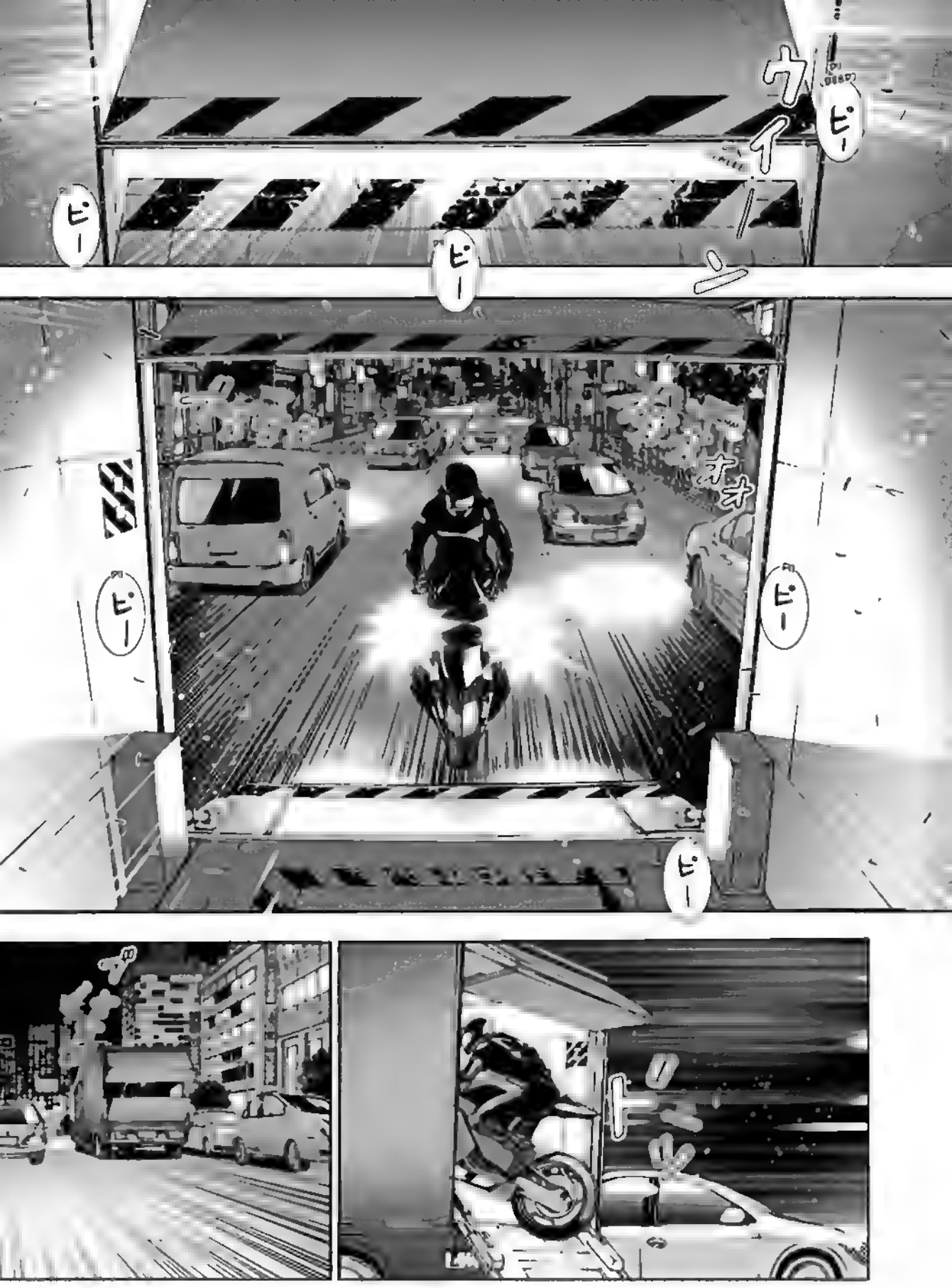
HMPH
...
GYA
(SCRAPE)
GYA
DOSA
DOSA
(THUD)
HNNG
...
...


KYUUUN (VRRRR)
GAAHH!
WHO... ARE YOU ...!?
HYUUN (WHIRR)


IF I HIT THE GAS, YOUR FACE WILL BE SO CRUSHED, EVEN YOUR OWN PARENTS WON'T BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY YOU.
THIS IS A SPECIAL ALL-WHEEL-DRIVE MOTORCYLE. IT'S GOT THE TORQUE OF A FULL-ON TRUCK.


MISHI (SQUISH)
...
WHO HIRED YOU?
THINK I'M LYING?

CALL THE POLICE.
HYUUUN (WHIRR)
OFFICIALLY, YOU'RE THE ONES WHO REPORTED THEM.
DON'T TRY ANY FUNNY BUSINESS WITH THESE CLOWNS.
I'VE GOT TO LEAVE.
...
HYUUN (WHIRR)


ウィーン
ピー
ピー
ピー
ピー
ピー
ピー
すす
ピー

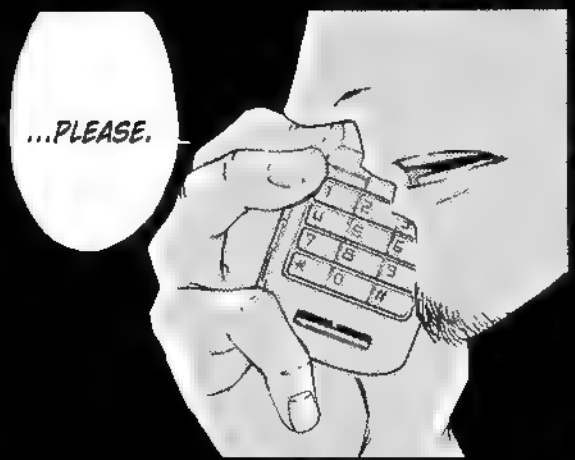
SFF.
CHA (CHIK)
チャ
フゥー
FUUU (PAHH)

THAT'S A HELL OF A BIKE.
TWO-WHEEL HUB MOTORS, FULL FREEDOM OF MOTION, IMPERVIOUS TO BULLETS...
DAMN, THAT NEW MODEL IS SLICK...
SHAKU (CHOMP)
I GUESS. YOU NEED A BIT OF TRAINING ...
...AND A PROGRAM-MER LIKE YOU FOR BACKUP.
BUT NOT JUST ANYONE CAN RIDE IT...
BIRI (PEEL)
DON (THUD)
WHAT'S UP? YOU SOUND BUMMED, PARTNER.

THINGS ARE GETTING COMPLICATED.
YEAH ...

YOU CAN'T JUST DUMP THIS ON ME! I'M WITH ANOTHER TEAM NOW!

WHAT DO YOU WANT !?


...PLEASE.

I THINK THAT'S THE FIRST TIME HE'S EVER SAID "PLEASE" TO ME...
WHA— !?

HUHHH !?
ARE YOU KIDDING ME!?
... THANKS ...
So what are you gonna do?
ALL RIGHT... IF IT'S NOT GOING TO INTERFERE WITH MY CURRENT JOB, I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO.
...

KNOWING HIM, THERE'S NO WAY HE'LL RECONSIDER ...
I will appear here at 2:00AM on August 11th.

IS THIS ABOUT YOUR OLD PARTNER COMING BACK?

BUT I CAN'T JUST DROP DAI AND RUSH TO HIS AID...

HOW DID YOU —!?

YOU CAN'T LET A GUY ABANDON HIS DUTIES AND GET AWAY WITH IT.
I'LL CLEAN UP THIS MESS.

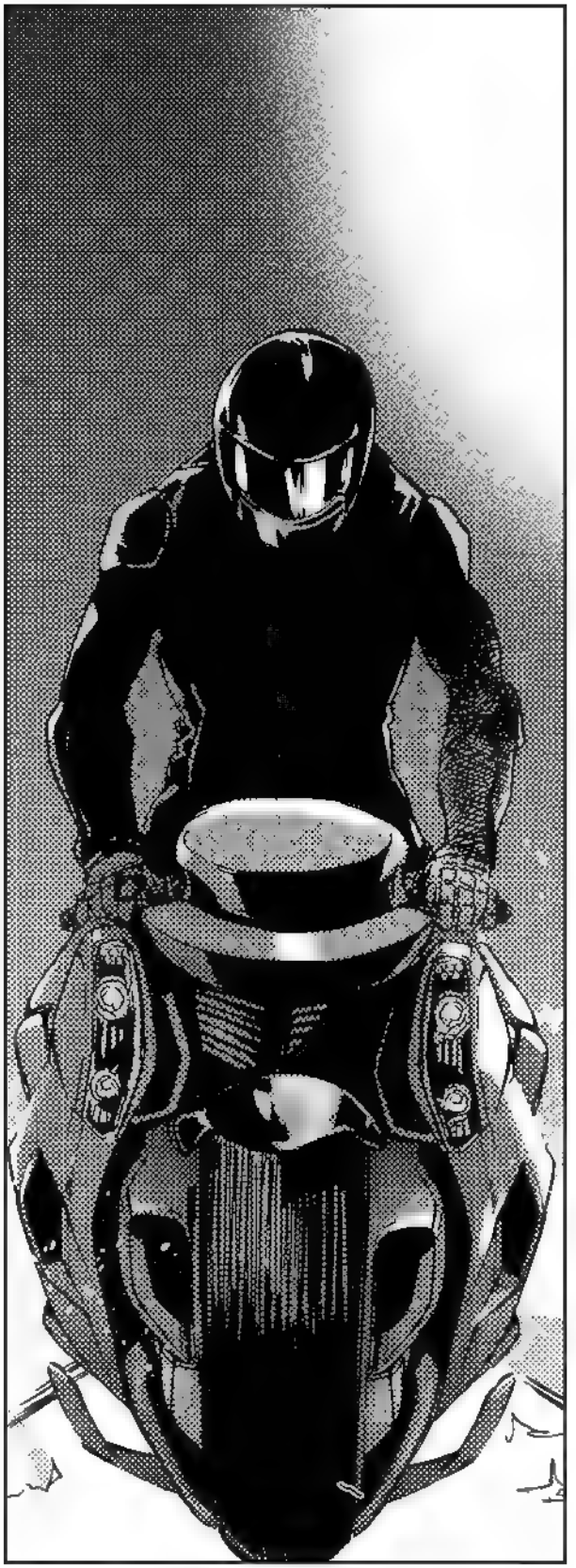
GOT A MESSAGE FROM THE CAPTAIN. SAID WE COULD ELIMINATE HIM IF NECESSARY.

HE'S NO SIMPLE STREET THUG.
YOU'RE NOT BAD, BUT HE'S ANOTHER MATTER ENTIRELY.
DON'T DO IT, DAI...
HMM ?

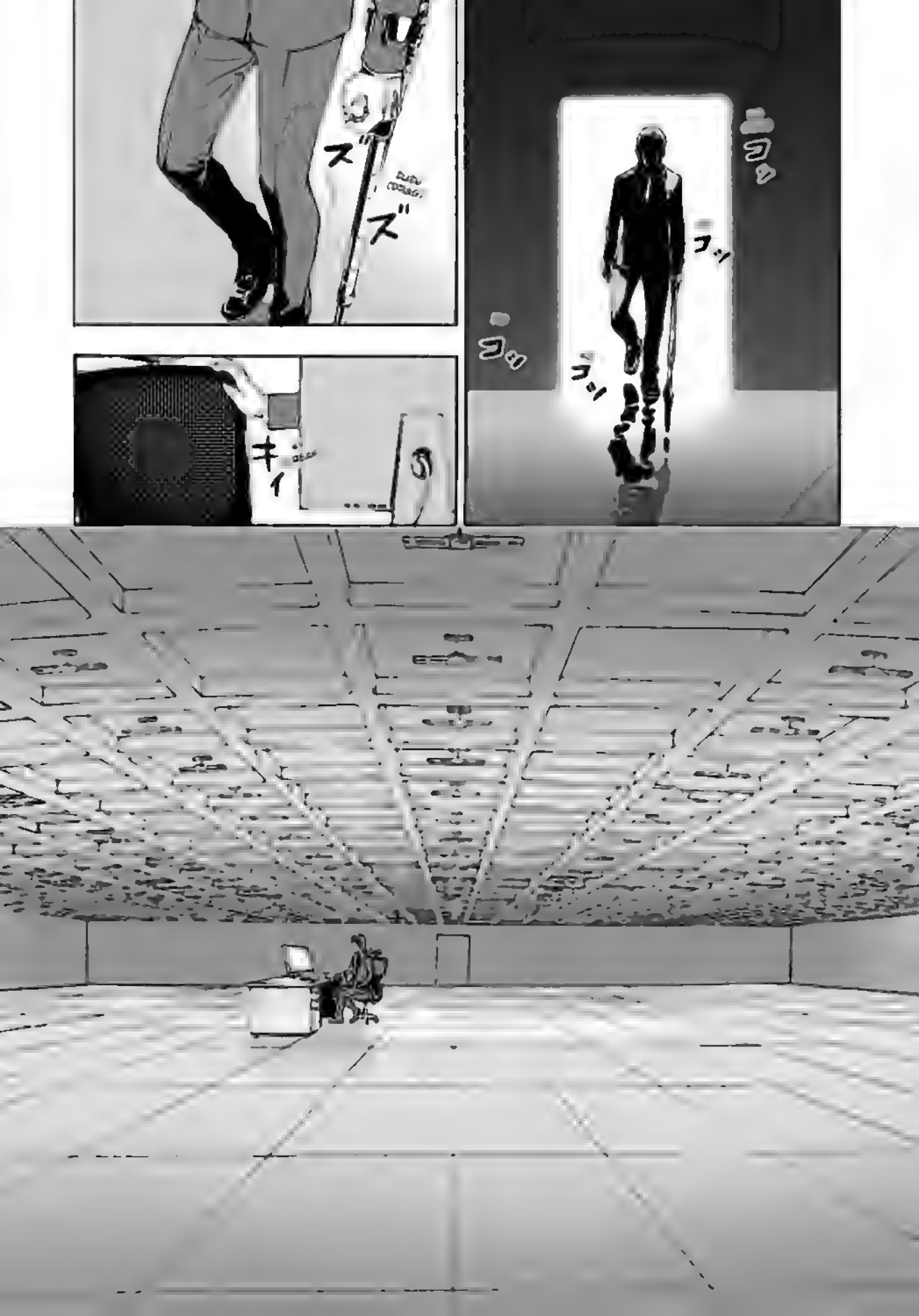
...WHY DO ALL MY PARTNERS TURN OUT TO BE SUCH SOCIOPATHS !?
YOU REALIZE THAT IF YOU TALK ABOUT HIM THAT WAY, IT ONLY MAKES ME WANT TO MEET HIM MORE.

ブォォォォ
BUOOO (RRUM)
WHAT !?
MORE IMPORTANTLY, NOW I KNOW WHO HIRED THEM.

SO NOW THEY'RE OPENLY GUNNING FOR THE JINRYUUKAI OFFICERS?
TEKIOUKAI. PART OF THE KINDAI SYNDICATE.
GAJI (SOUND)
ガジ
GAJI
ガジ
THE ONLY ONES WITH ANYTHING TO GAIN ARE THE GUYS PULLING THE STRINGS, BUT THERE COULD BE DOZENS OF THEM.
AT THIS POINT, IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE WE HAVE A FULL-SCALE YAKUZA WAR ON OUR HANDS.
BLOOD SPRAY
...SHIT, MAN...



Until
Death
do us
Part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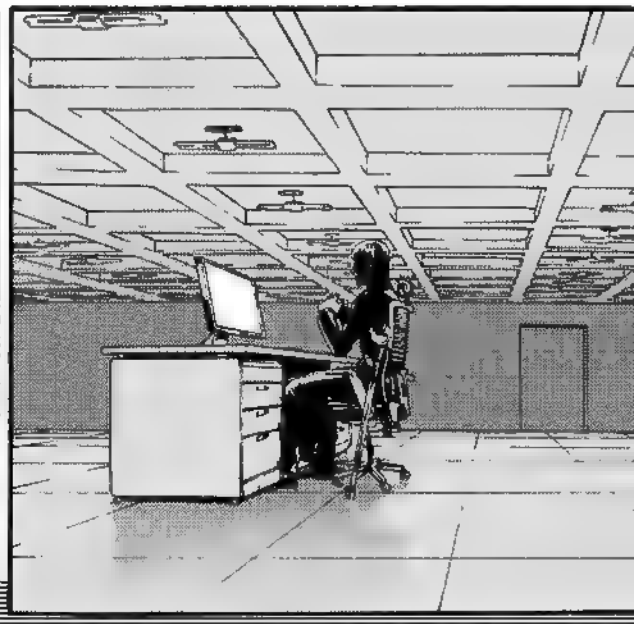

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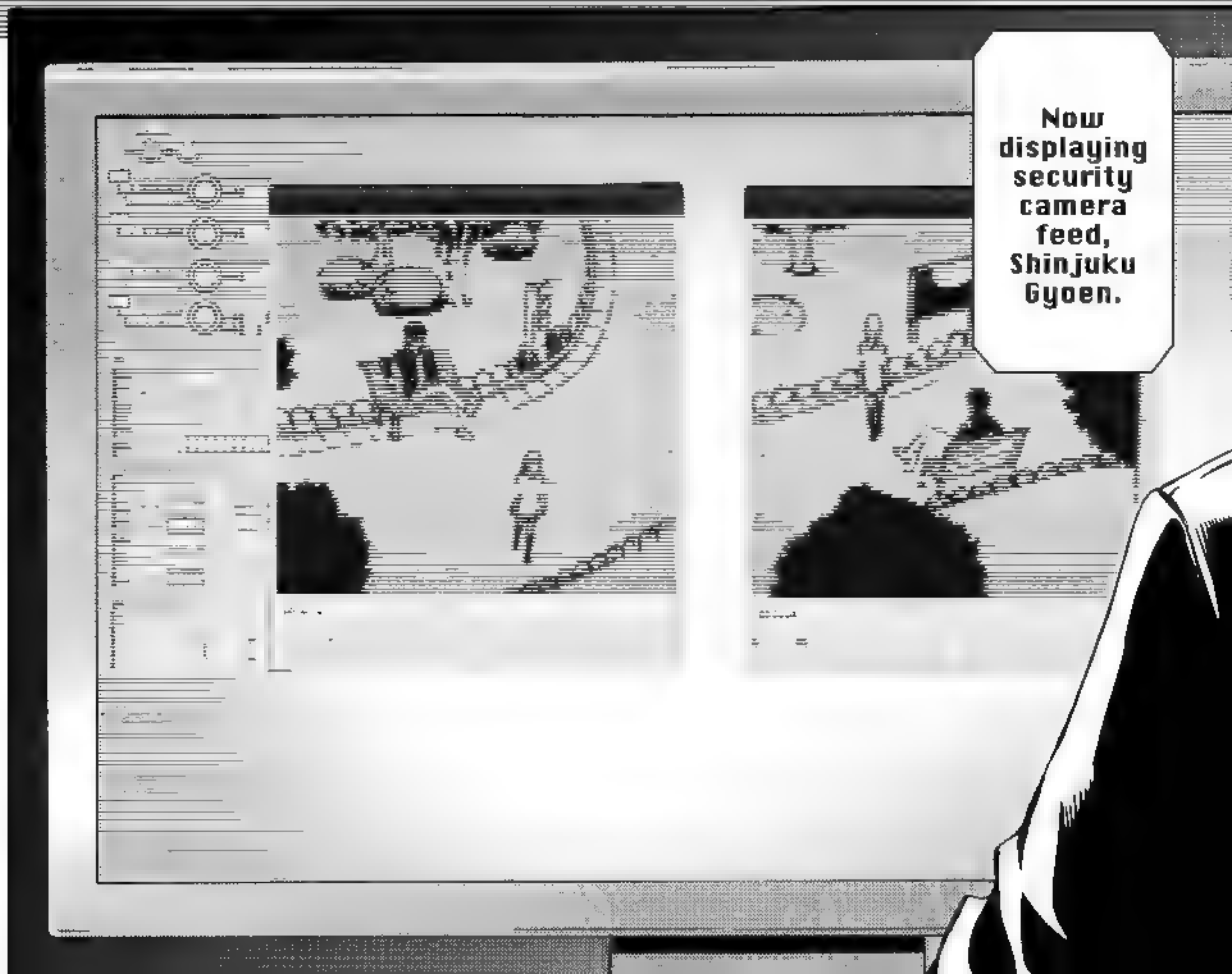
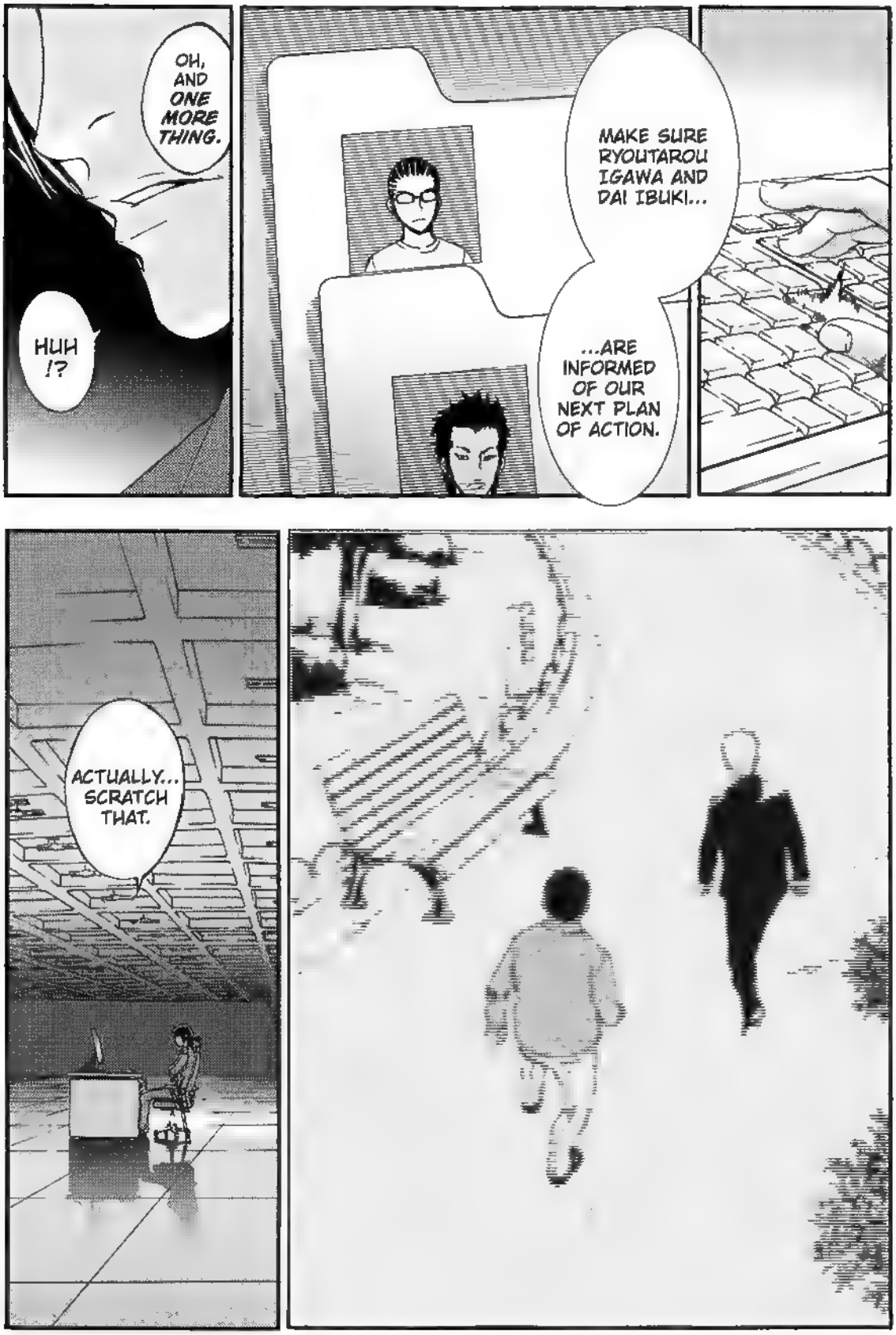


Chapter 72

YOU'VE BEEN VISITING THIS AREA EVERY DAY SINCE THEN. WHAT'S THE PLAN?
IT'S ALL HAP-PENING TONIGHT, ISN'T IT?
NOT THAT I MIND VISITING THE PARK ...
THEY'LL TRY TO THINK TWO STEPS AHEAD AND SURPRISE ME.
HEH. THEY'RE NOT DUMB ENOUGH TO RELY ON BRUTE FORCE AND VOLUME ANYMORE.

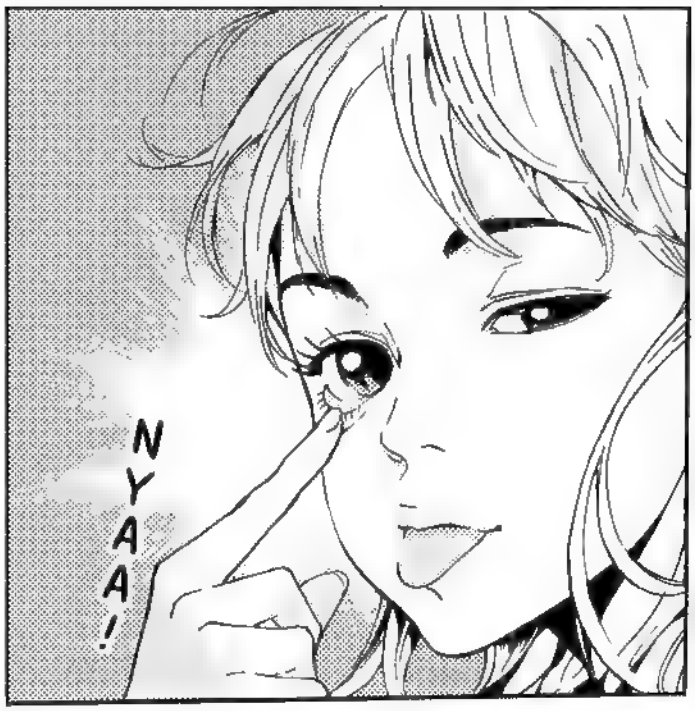
I DON'T KNOW HOW SUPPOSED GENIUSES THINK.
SO I GO IN WITHOUT A PLAN.
LIKE HOW?
...THAT'S CRAZY...
LET'S GO, HARUKA.
OKAY.
BETTER NOT TO OVERTHINK THINGS.

Targets have passed out of camera range.
Tracking can-celed.
File Edit View Info Help
start
unknown online
What do you suppose he's doing? The battle is scheduled for that location tonight.
GOOD GRIEF ...
QUITE PRESUMP-TUOUS OF HIM, GIVEN THAT HE'S ALREADY CAUSING TROUBLE BY ACTING ALONE.
OUR TOP PRIORITY RIGHT NOW IS NETWORK OPERATIONS. HIS SITUATION DOESN'T ENTER INTO IT.


OH, AND ONE MORE THING.
HUH !?
MAKE SURE RYOUTAROU IGAWA AND DAI IBUKI...
...ARE INFORMED OF OUR NEXT PLAN OF ACTION.
ACTUALLY... SCRATCH THAT.

JARI
(SCRAPE)
...WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
WHA—?
DUDE, HE'S STANDING RIGHT THERE. HOW DO WE NOT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS?
HEH-HEH... GOOD POINT...

MOTHER-F...
!?
TA (TEK)
TA
WHERE'D HE GO !?
WHAT THE— !?
JUST GRAB HER!
TA (DASH)
TA (WAVE)


NYAA!

CHIRA (PEEK)
チラッ!!

I KNOW, I KNOW!

?

WHAT THE FUCK!? IS SHE SASSING US!?
WATCH OUT FOR HIM! HE'S BOUND TO BE HIDING!

!?
AAAGH!
GOT-CHA!

SUDO (THWUD)
TA (TAK)

FUN (SNORT)

GORO (ROLL)
~!!
~!!
GORO
TON (CHOP)
TON
?

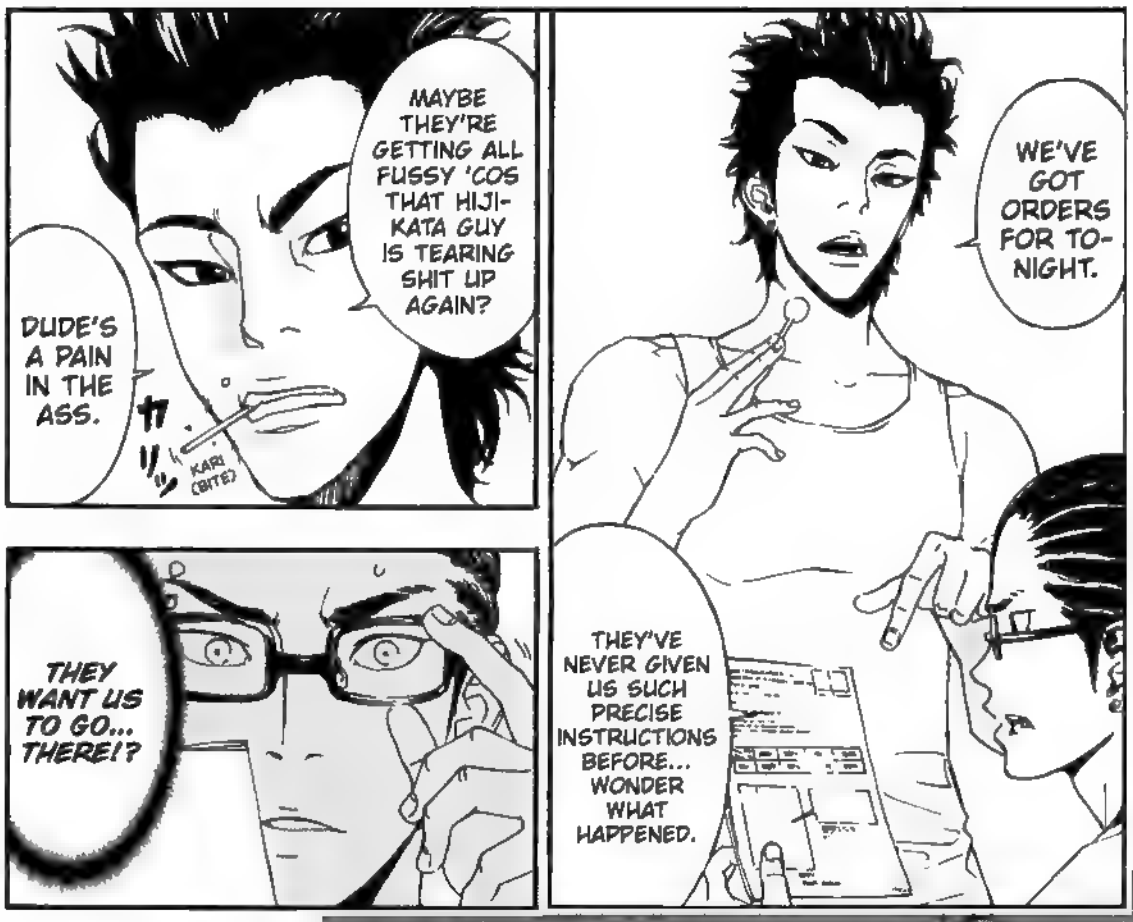
DO (STOMP)
DO
DO
NOW I'M GONNA KILL YA!
SHIT!
PASASA (FLAP)
AGH!
THAT WAY!
GO (THUD)
DOSA (THUMP)
AW, FUCK!
ZUN (STOMP)
ZAZA (FSHH)

TON (TRIP)
GOTCHA TRAPPED NOW!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR TRICKS !!
ZABAA (SPLOOSH)

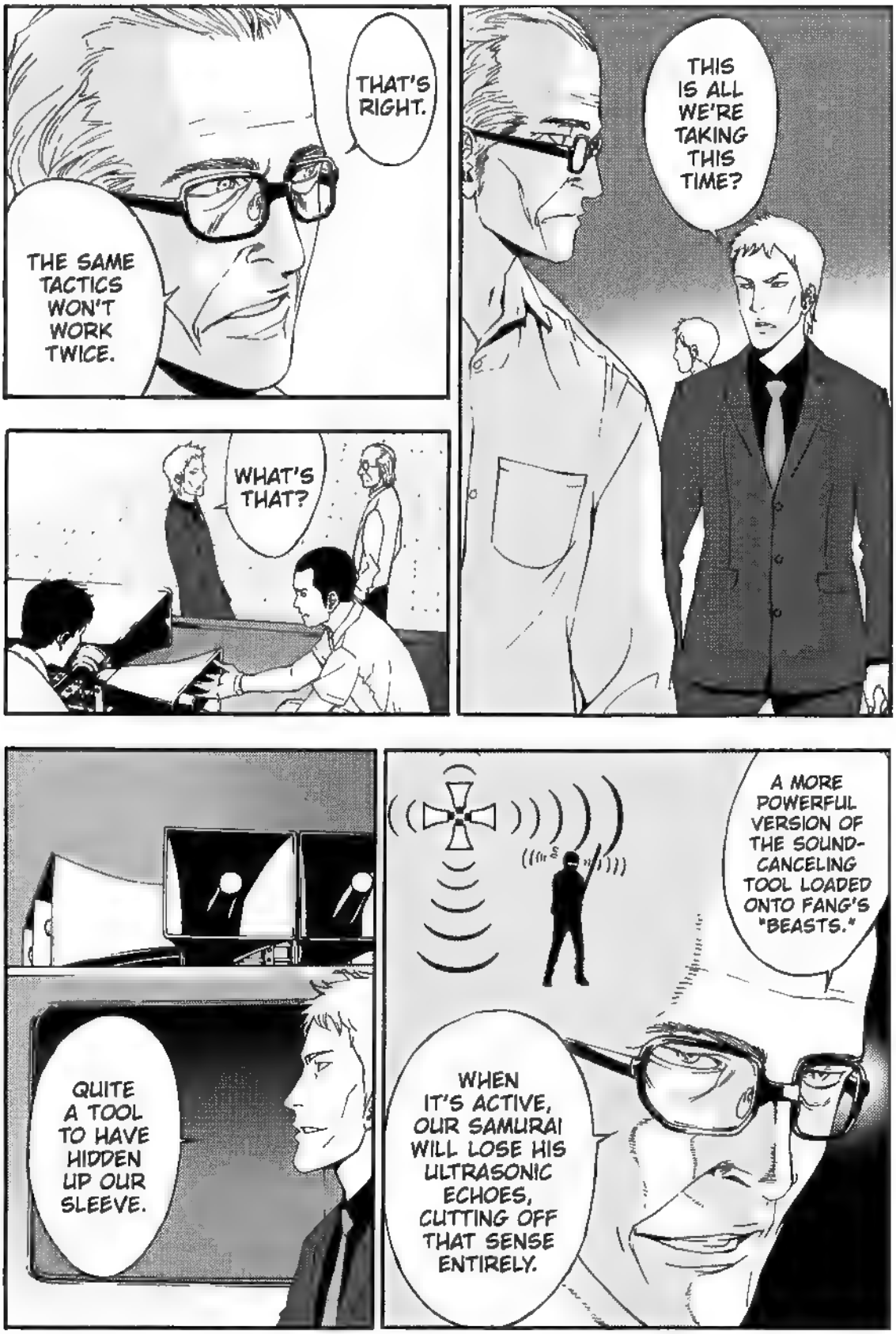
ZUZA (SLIDE)
ZA
ZA
GA (CLICK)
スウ
SUU (LOOM)
FUCK THIS SHIT!
GAKK !!
ゴ
GO (WHOMP)
SHE'S GONNA ...
... PAY... ERGH.

THEY WEREN'T SCARY AT ALL COMPARED TO A BROWN BEAR.
HOW WAS THAT?
AND OF COURSE, YOU'VE GOT THAT GIFT OF FORESIGHT THAT'S SO IMPORTANT TO A FIGHTER.
NO, THEY WEREN'T.
AS LONG AS YOU DON'T PANIC, THERE'S NOTHING TO FEAR FROM THUGS LIKE THEM.
THE ISSUE IS JUST BEING BRAVE ENOUGH NOT TO LOSE SIGHT OF YOURSELF.

MESSAGE FOR THE GREAT IGAWA-SAN.
HEY!
KATA
KATA
KATA (TAP)
SU (SWISH)
PLUS, AWD MOTORCYCLES HARDLY HAVE ANY BODY OF DATA SUPPORTING THEM. IF YOU EXPECT...
I'M ALTERING THE HANDLING OF THE REVERSE PROPULSION LIKE YOU ASKED.
CAN IT WAIT?
DIFFERENTIAL MOTION BETWEEN BOTH WHEELS? YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW SPOILED YOU ARE.


MAYBE THEY'RE GETTING ALL FUSSY 'COS THAT HIJI-KATA GUY IS TEARING SHIT UP AGAIN?
DUDE'S A PAIN IN THE ASS.
KARI (BITE)
WE'VE GOT ORDERS FOR TO-NIGHT.
THEY'VE NEVER GIVEN US SUCH PRECISE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE... WONDER WHAT HAPPENED.
THEY WANT US TO GO... THERE!?

GAYA
GAYA (MURMUR)


THAT'S RIGHT.
THE SAME TACTICS WON'T WORK TWICE.
THIS IS ALL WE'RE TAKING THIS TIME?
WHAT'S THAT?
A MORE POWERFUL VERSION OF THE SOUND-CANCELING TOOL LOADED ONTO FANG'S "BEASTS."
WHEN IT'S ACTIVE, OUR SAMURAI WILL LOSE HIS ULTRASONIC ECHOES, CUTTING OFF THAT SENSE ENTIRELY.
QUITE A TOOL TO HAVE HIDDEN UP OUR SLEEVE.

OF COURSE ...
I WANT HIM ABSOLUTELY DEAD THIS TIME. NO MORE SECOND CHANCES!
LET'S TAKE OUR PLACES CLOSE TO THE PARK...
I GROW WEARY OF THIS GAME AS WELL.
...AND SEE THIS ONE TO THE FINISH.

HUH!?
BLOOD (VRRMM)
ゴオオオ
FIGURED IT OUT ALREADY?
EH? BUT...
IT'S OKAY.
YOU'RE REALLY NOT GOING, THEN!?
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO CHAL-LENGED THEM.
LAST TIME IT WAS A SHOW OF FORCE TO KEEP THEM OFF MY BACK.
BUT THERE'S NO REASON FOR ME TO ACTUALLY KEEP MY WORD TO SCUM LIKE THEM THIS TIME.

IT WAS A FAKE-OUT.
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS...WE SCOUTED OUT THE PARK ALL THOSE TIMES...
WAS IT ALL A LIE?
HEE HEE HEE...
?
PFF!
HA HA HA!
HA HA HA...
新宿御苑
大木戸門

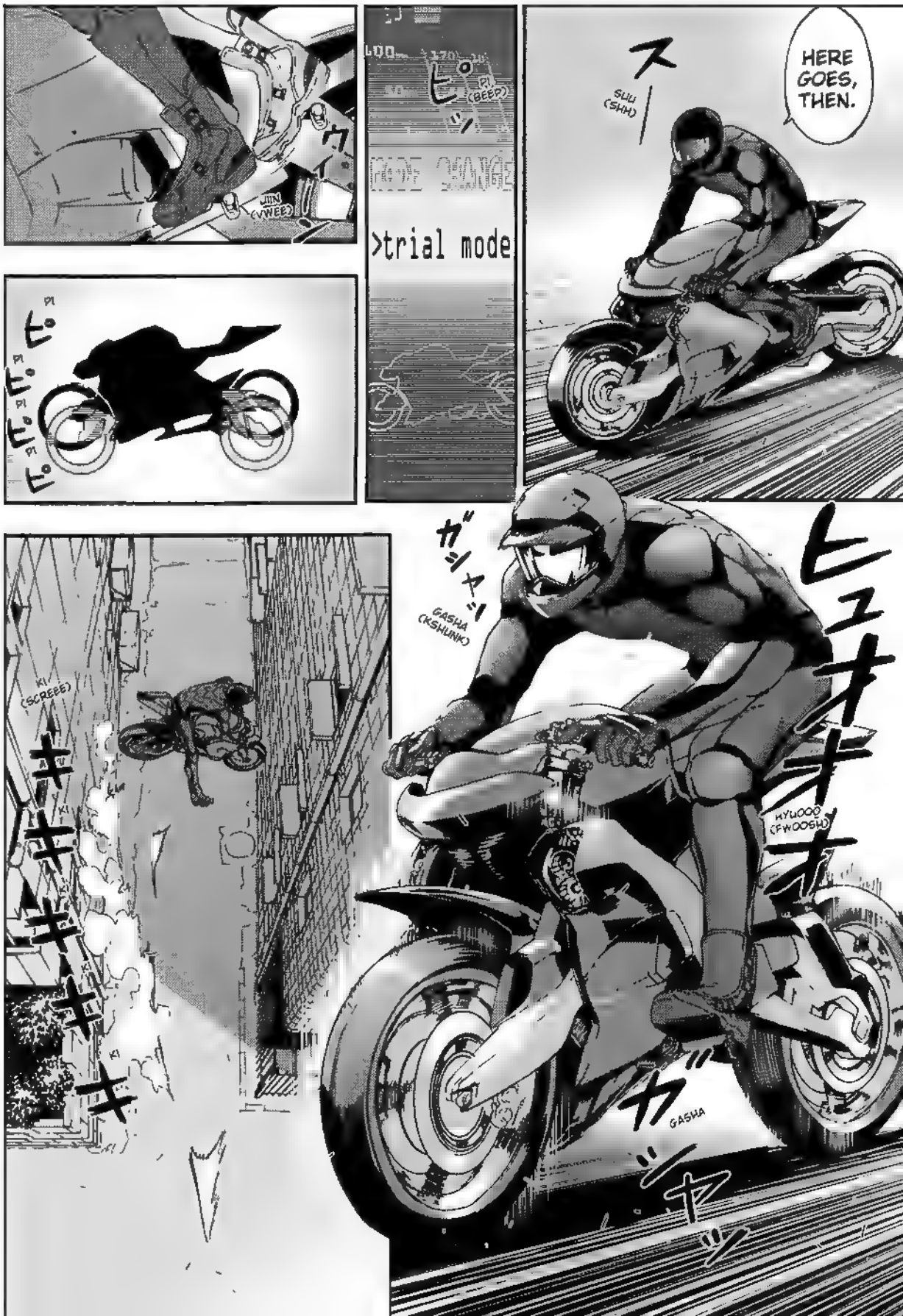
タッ
タッ

AH...

MAMORU-SAN, THEY'RE ALREADY ...

ドドドド
ドンッ

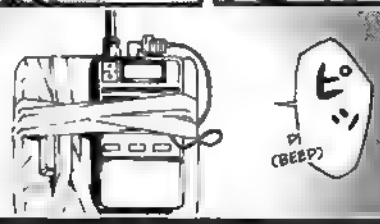
chapter 13

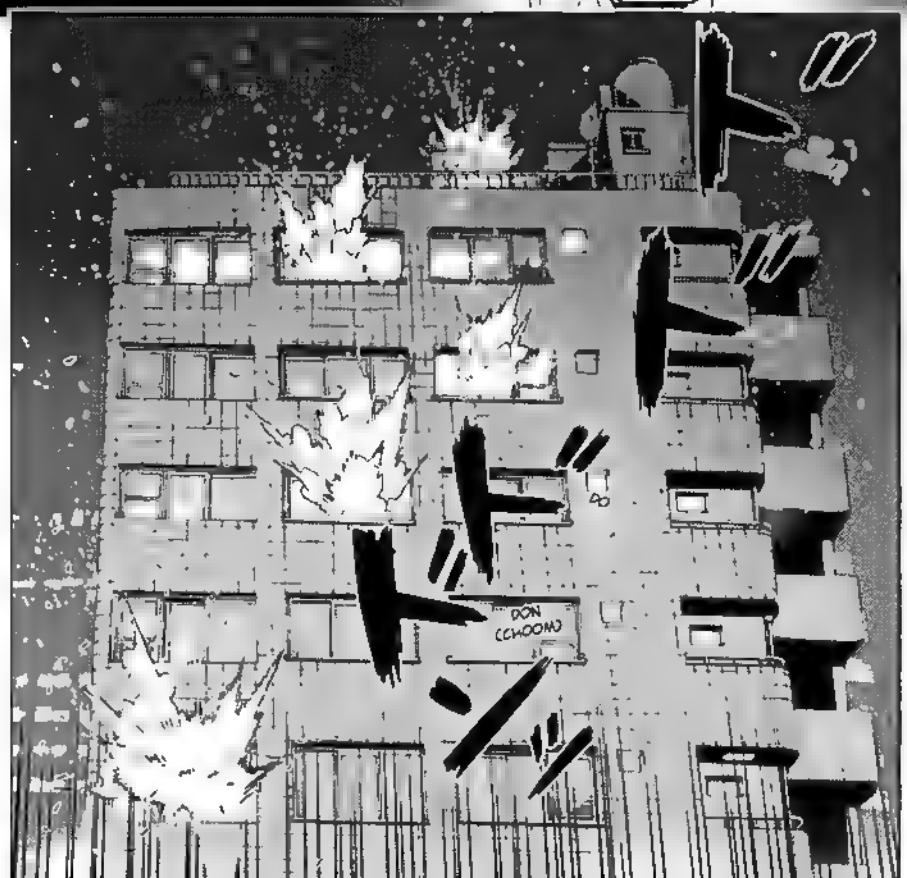

JIIN (VWEE)
ピピピピピピ
>trial mode
PI (BEEP)
スー
SUU (SHH)
HERE GOES, THEN.
ガシャン
GASHA (KSHUNK)
ヒュオオオ
HYUOOO (FWOOSH)
ガシャン
GASHA
キキキキキキ
KI (SCREEE)

ギュウ
GYUU (SQUEEZE)
ウィーン
WIIN
グッ
GU
グググッ
GU
GU
グリッ
GURI (TUG)
…

GOHHH (VRRR)
HNM!

HERE WE GO, BABY!
HYUN (PWUM)
HEH HEH!
GREAT, HE'S CRAZY TOO!

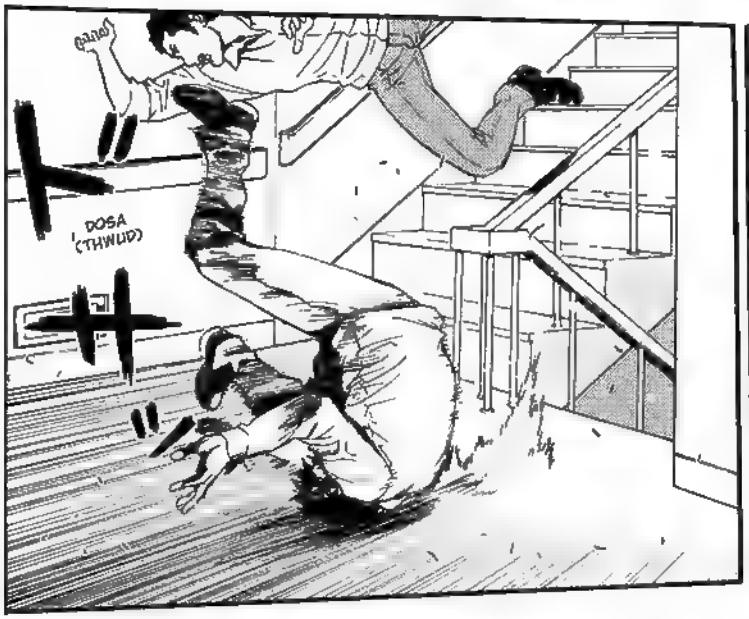

ピッ
PI (BEEP)


DON (CHOOM)

ピー
PI

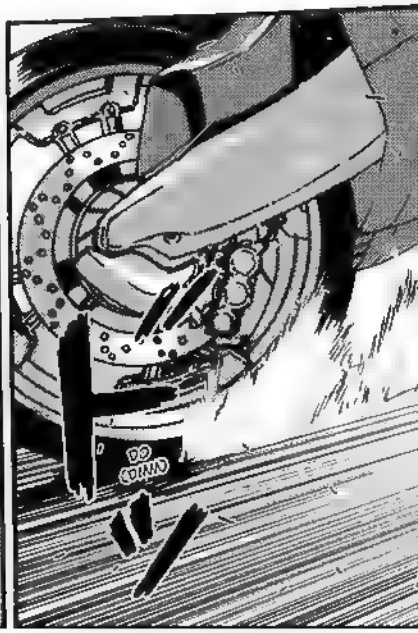
ボンッ
BON
BON
(THOOMD
ドンッ
DON
ズズズンッ
ZUZUZUN
(ZOMM)
!?
WH-
WHAT
WAS
THAT!?
...NICE
WORK...
RIGHT ON
TIME.

WHAT WAS ALL OF THAT?
WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON!?
WHAT HAP-PENED !?


DOSA (THWUD)

AGH!
AAH!

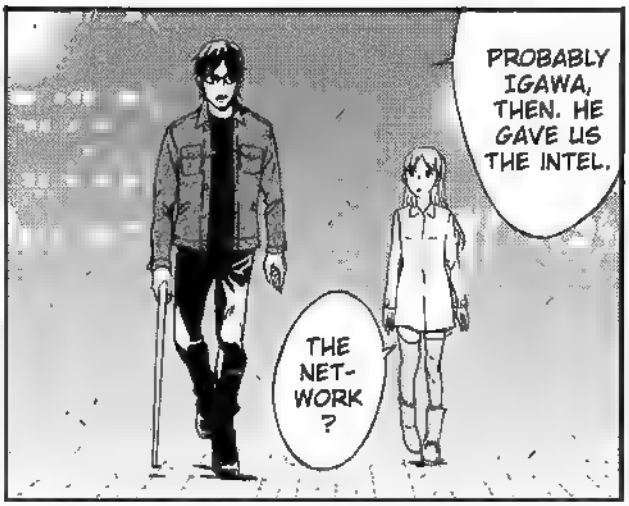
HUH?
WHO THE FUCK ARE YOU!?



KYUIN (SCREE)
IT'S A RAID !!
AAAH!

THERE'S SMOKE RISING OUT OF THE WINDOWS, BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ON FIRE.

WHAT'S HAPPENING UP THERE?
WELL... THE OLD BUILDING IN FRONT OF US IS DAMAGED HERE AND THERE.


PROBABLY IGAWA, THEN. HE GAVE US THE INTEL.
THE NETWORK?

...SO THEY GOT THE JUMP ON US...
HUH?

TAKE CARE!
HE COULD BE NEARBY. MEET UP WITH HIM WHERE HE CAN WATCH OUT FOR YOU.
JUST WORRY ABOUT YOUR-SELF...

GUSHA (SPLURCH)
DON (BLAM)
DON
AAAGH!
KIN (CRTING)
KIN

ヴォオオオ
GUOOO (ZROOM)
YOU BAS-TARD!
ENOUGH OF THIS SHIT!!
KI (SCREECH)
KI
KI
ヒュッ
(SWISH)
タン
(THUD)
IDIOTS!

ZUGAGA (CRUNCH)

WHO'S NEXT!?
DANG (WHAM)
DON (BOOM)
THIS WAY!
GUO (VROOM)

DOGAGAGA (KABOOOM)
AAAH!
DON (BOOM)
DOGA (BWAM)
LA-TER!
BOBON (KRSHH)
AAGH!
DODON (BA-BOOM)
WHOA !!
TA (RATTA)
EEY-AAGH !!
DO (CRASH)
DO

KI (SCREECH)
KI
KI
Primary target
BA (WHOOSH)
CHECK-MATE!

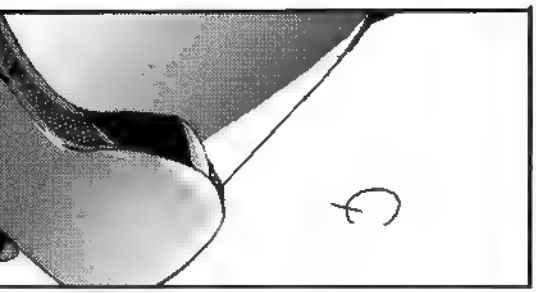
THE ELEMENT NETWORK ...
MAYBE.
WAIT.
SAY YOUR PRAYERS.

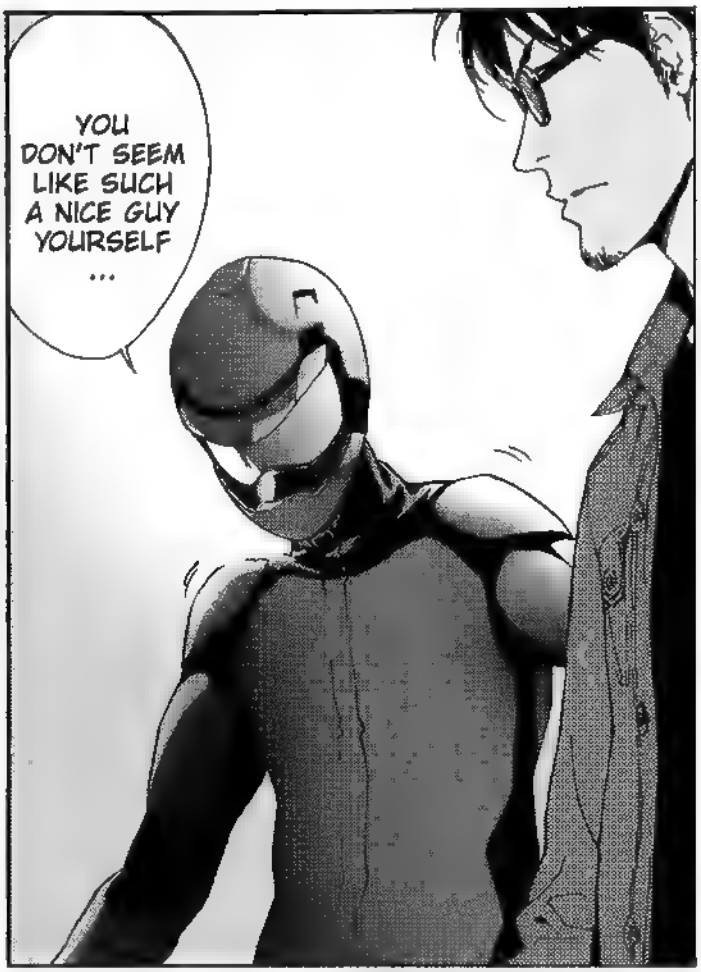
WHA —!
IT'S YOU !!
WHO THE HELL IS...!?
ガチャ
GACHA (CLICK)
!?
...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!?

WHAT KIND OF IDIOT KEEPS A PROMISE TO A TOTAL SCUMBAG ?
KO
TOKI
KO

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, BUT THIS GUY'S GOT BUSINESS WITH ME.

...




YOU DON'T SEEM LIKE SUCH A NICE GUY YOURSELF ...

DON'T GIVE ME THAT BULL-SHIT.

THE LAST THING WE NEED IS YOU CAUSING TROUBLE AGAIN.

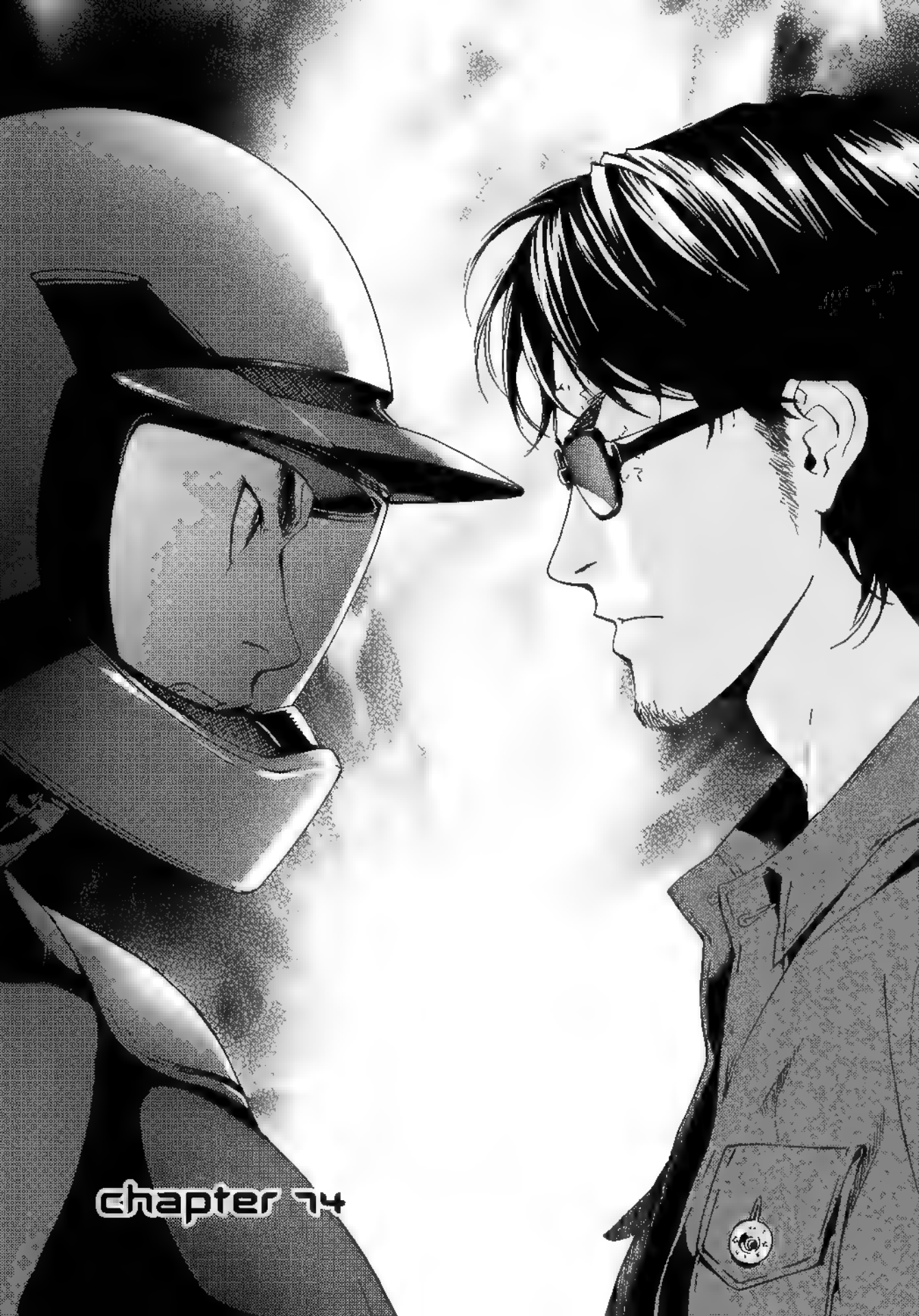
...

GYAGYAGYA (SCREEEL)

GYAGYAGYA
(SCREEEL)

DON'T GIVE ME THAT BULL-SHIT.
THE LAST THING WE NEED IS YOU CAUSING TROUBLE AGAIN.
...

...
...YOU'VE INSERTED YOURSELF INTO THE PICTURE HERE.
AS I THOUGHT ...
BUT WILL IT BE FOR THE BETTER, OR THE WORSE ...?


chapter 74

WHAT THE HELL CAN YOU DO IN THAT MINIMAL STATE?
YOU LEFT YOUR PRECIOUS SUNGLASSES BEHIND. YOUR CANE JUST HAS A NORMAL BLADE HIDDEN INSIDE.
YOU CAN'T SEE RIGHT NOW, CAN YOU?

I'M SCARIER WHEN I CAN'T SEE.
DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA.
WHA ?
...
WHAT CAN YOU POSSIBLY DO IN THIS SITUA-TION?
DUDE, SAVE THE BULL-SHITTING FOR LATER...

THIS IS IT...THE PERFECT CHANCE TO KILL HIM!
SU (REACH)
スッ
HEH-HEH!
YOU REALLY DON'T BELIEVE ME, DO YOU?
HYU (SWISH)

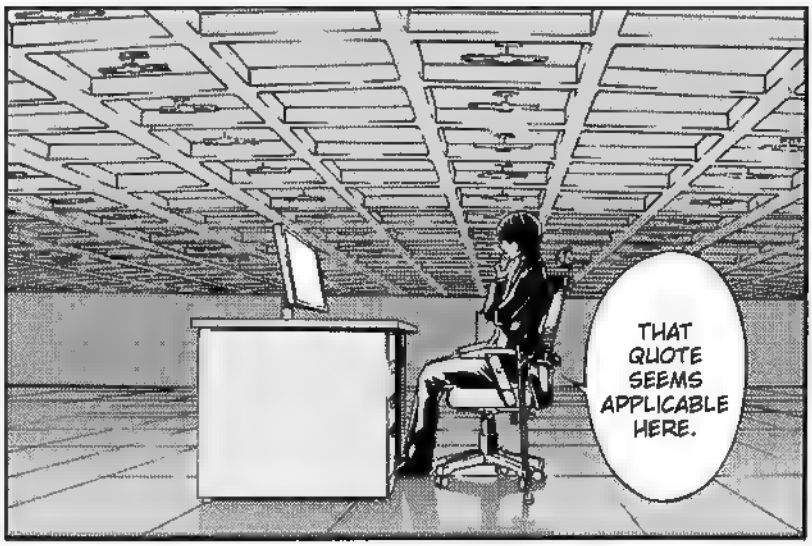
ZUGA
(SLICE)

DAH !!
BUSHUUU (BLARGH)
AAAAGH!!
AAAHH!!

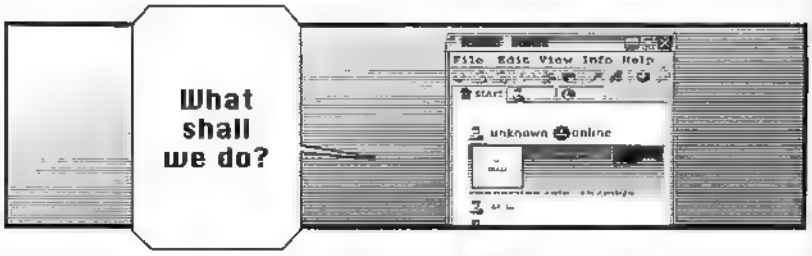
YOU'RE LUCKY THAT SLICE DIDN'T KILL YOU.
THAT SCREAM SOUNDS LIKE EDGE TURUS...
PACHIN (SNIKO
AAAAHH!!
WHAT THE FUCK DID YOU DO!?
AAAHH!!
IF ANY ONE OF YOU IS STUPID ENOUGH TO MOVE ON ME, I'LL SLICE YOU FIRST!
AAAGH!!
LET ME MAKE ONE THING CLEAR.
I WON'T BE ABLE TO HOLD MYSELF BACK.
WHETHER YOU'RE ARMED OR NOT. YOUNG, OLD, WOMEN, CHILDREN... ANYONE.

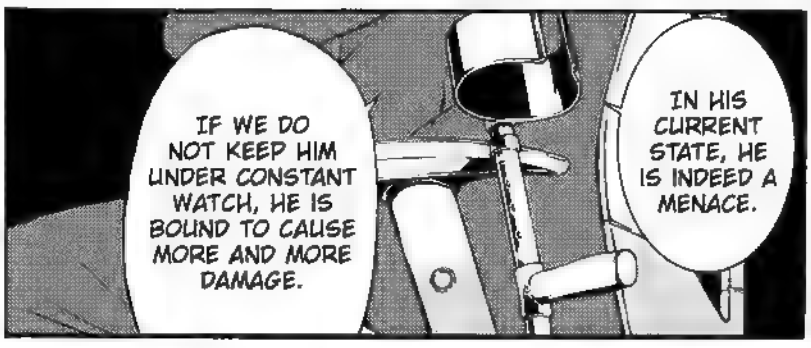
ゾクッ
ZOKU (SHIVER)
...
I CAN'T SEE YOU TO CONFIRM, AFTER ALL.
AAAGHH!!
GAHK!
OH, SHUT UP.
MISHI (SMUSH)
YOU KEEP BELLOWING LIKE THAT, IT JUST TELLS ME EXACTLY WHERE TO FIND YOUR HEAD.
SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT THIS VIPER WOULD SURVIVE EVEN AFTER I CRUSHED ITS HEAD.

AND? WHAT'S STOPPING YOU?
I SWEAR, YOU WILL DIE BY MY HAND...
I... I'LL KILL YOU!
DAMN, MAN...
THIS DUDE'S RUTH-LESS...


THAT QUOTE SEEMS APPLICABLE HERE.

"SUPPRESS ALL HUMAN EMOTION AND COMPASSION."
"KILL WHOEVER STANDS IN THY WAY, EVEN IF THAT BE LORD GOD, OR BUDDHA HIMSELF."


What shall we do?
File Edit View Info Help
start
unknown online


IF WE DO NOT KEEP HIM UNDER CONSTANT WATCH, HE IS BOUND TO CAUSE MORE AND MORE DAMAGE.
IN HIS CURRENT STATE, HE IS INDEED A MENACE.

...I HATE TO INVOKE SUCH AN AUTHORITARIAN PRIVILEGE, BUT I HAVE NO CHOICE.
GIVEN THE DEMOCRATIC NATURE OF THE NETWORK...

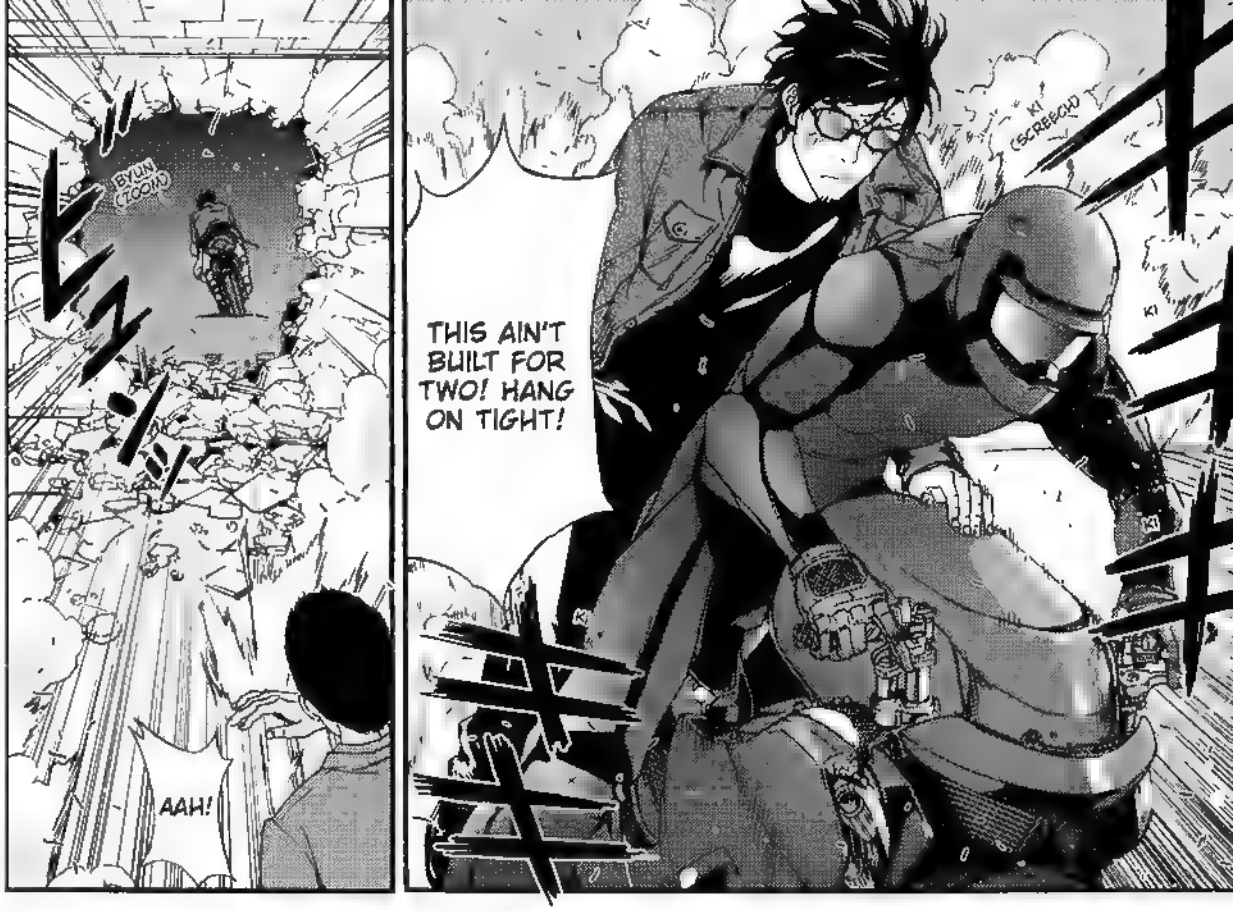
I WILL HAND DOWN HIS PUNISHMENT DIRECTLY.
...

WHOA!
PACHIN (POP)
ピ
(BEEP)
CAUTION
...THEY'RE COMING...
HMM?
BLOOO (VRRRHM)
HEH...

... YOU MEAN ...
OH, NOTHING.
JUST CHUCKLING AT MYSELF THAT I ACTUALLY STARTED TO TRUST HIM FOR SOME REASON.
WHAT IS IT?
I MUST CORRECT MY LACK OF FORE-THOUGHT.
HE ATTACKS AND SUBDUES CRIMINALS, BUT HIS MIND-SET COULD BE QUITE SIMILAR TO OURS, IN ACTUALITY.
WE SIMPLY ASSUMED THAT WAS THE CASE BASED ON HIS PAST ACTIONS.
OH, OF COURSE, THERE WAS NEVER ANY GUARANTEE THAT HE WOULD FULFILL HIS CHALLENGE.

WHAT !?
THE HIDEOUT'S UNDER ATTACK!
BRILLIANT ...
SO IT WAS A FAKE...
IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN OBVIOUS, GIVEN THAT THE GUY THEY'RE AFTER BROKE HIS WORD AND SHOWED UP HERE.
DAMN, EARLIER THAN WE WERE COUNTING ON ...
Hey, Dai!
The group that headed to the park is coming back!
THE PLAN'S RUINED.
GOSH, MY BAD.

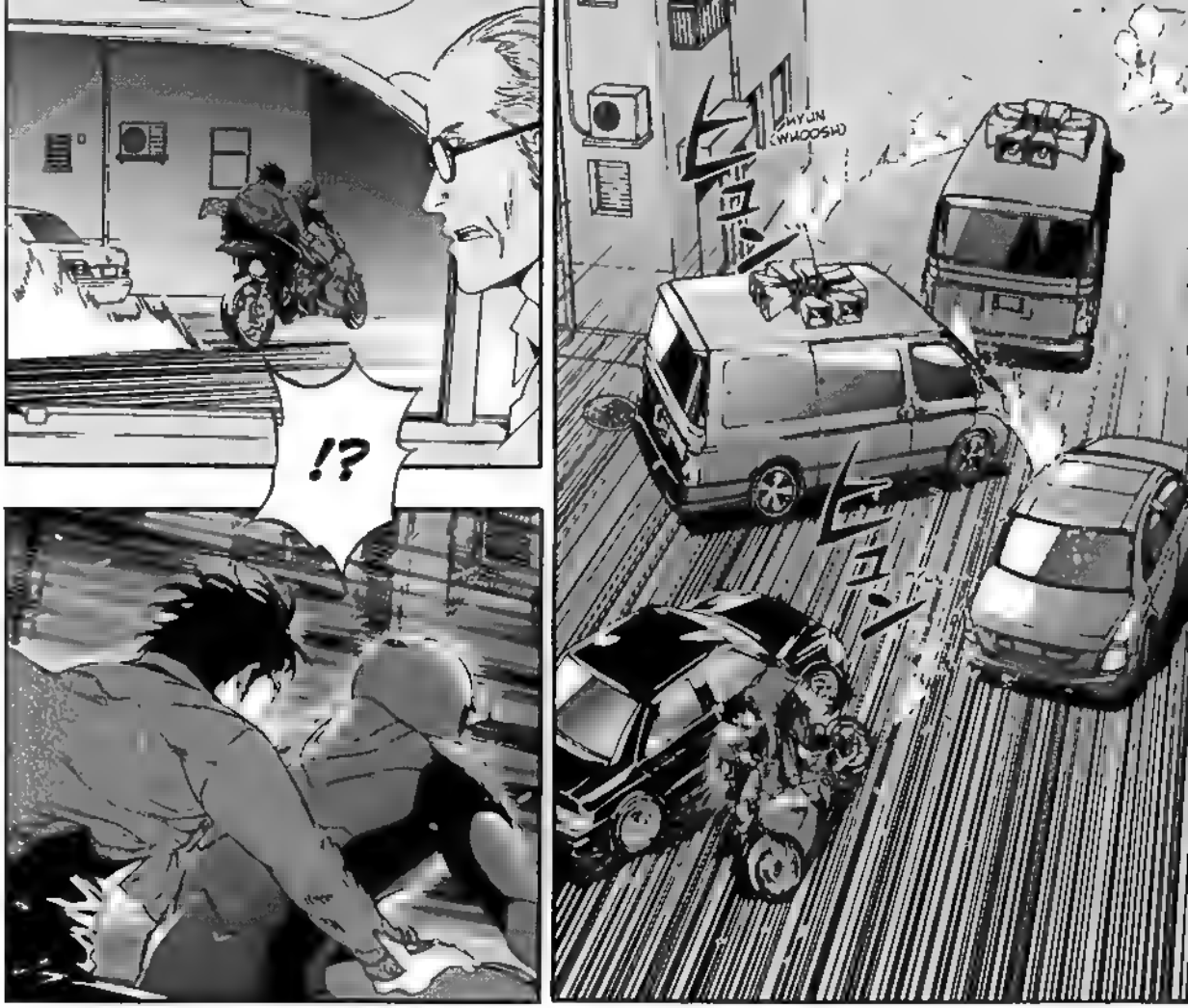
DON'T MIND ME. I CAN HANDLE THIS ON MY OWN.
GET ON.
KI (SCREECH)
KI
KI
KI
KI
...
ALL RIGHT ...
IT'S NOT YOU I'M CONCERNED ABOUT!
I'M SAYING WE'VE GOT BUSINESS AFTER THIS, AND YOU'RE DAMN WELL COMING WITH ME !!


BYUN (ZOOM)
AAH!
THIS AIN'T BUILT FOR TWO! HANG ON TIGHT!
KI (SCREECH)
KI
KI

TURUS-SAMA...WE NEED TO GET YOU TO A HOSPITAL !!

GIRI (GRIT)

AAAAAAHH!!
FUCK OFF!!
DO (SMASH)


!?
(WHOOSH)

WHAT INCREDIBLE CONTROL. THAT MUST BE THE SILENT MOTORCYCLE IN THE EARLIER REPORT.

...THE ELEMENT NETWORK!
SO HE WAS WITH THEM...

KOMURA-SAN...?
GATA (THUNK)
ガタ
K...

I'M RIGHT HERE.
!?

THEY'VE ALL LEFT.

WHEN THE ENEMY'S MAKING A LIGHTNING STRIKE, THEY WON'T RETRACE THEIR STEPS TO FIND YOU.
THE SAFEST PLACE TO BE IS ALWAYS THE FIRST LOCATION NEUTRAL-IZED.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP THERE?

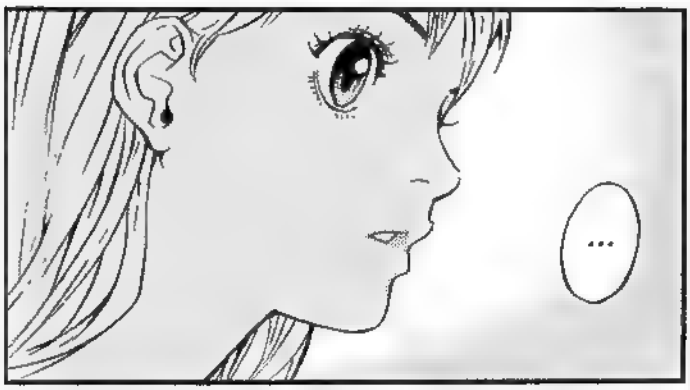
I'M THE ACTING LEADER OF THE ORG. WHAT'S WRONG WITH PRIORITIZING MY OWN SAFETY !?
DON'T BE A MORON. THE HEAD GOES DOWN, THE ORGANIZA-TION DIES.
...

SIR...YOU REALIZE WE'RE UNDER ATTACK, RIGHT?
SHOULDN'T YOU BE CALLING THE SHOTS ON THE FRONT LINE!?

ME?

WE'RE MEET-ING UP!
No! Change of plans.
WAIT, WHAT !?

I got business with this chump! You head back first, and I'll catch up later!!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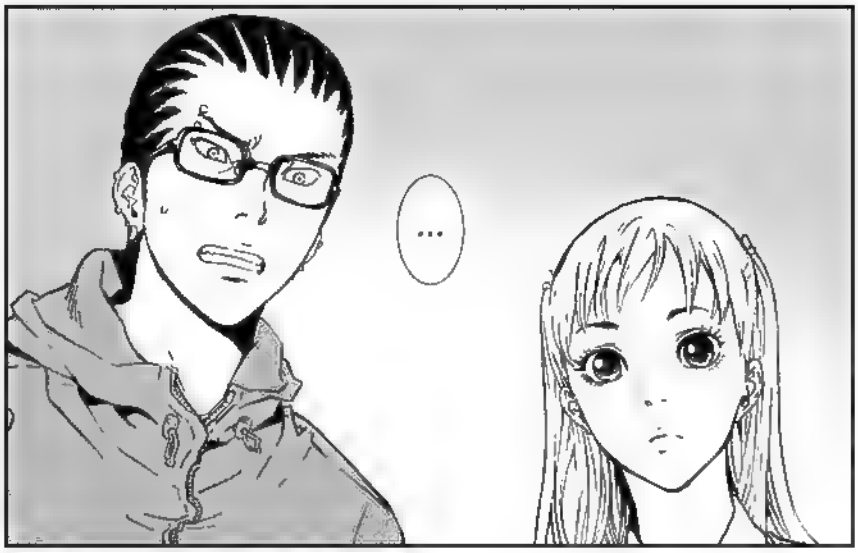
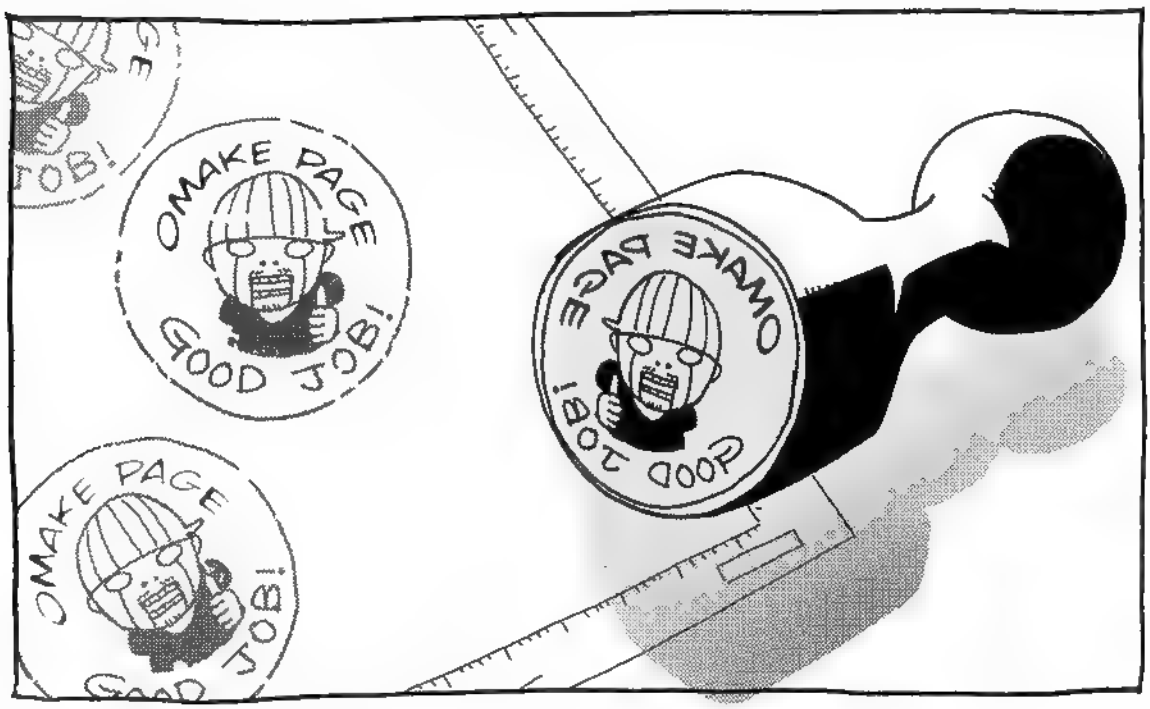
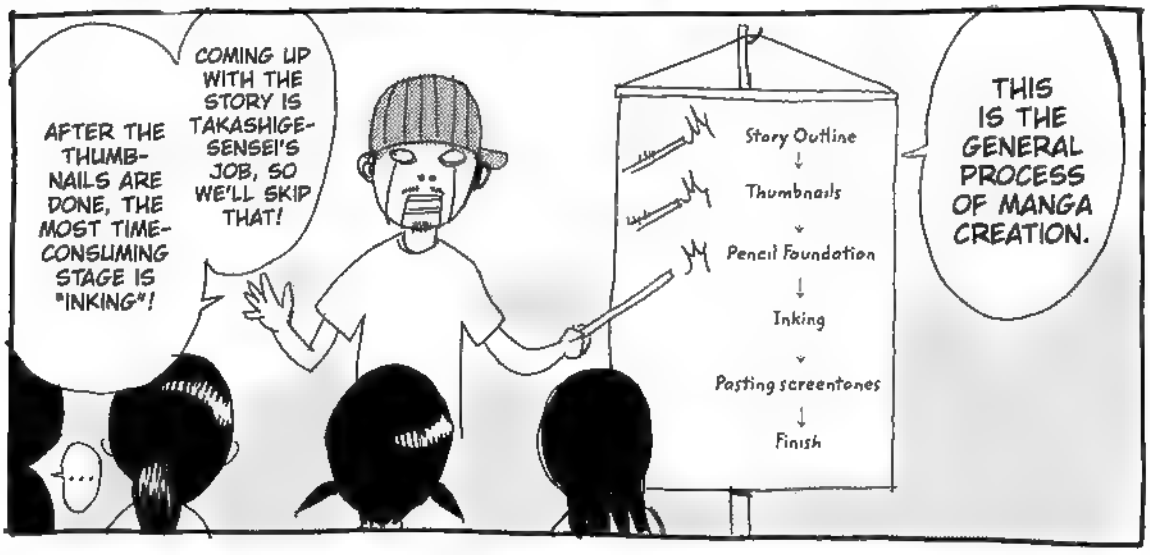
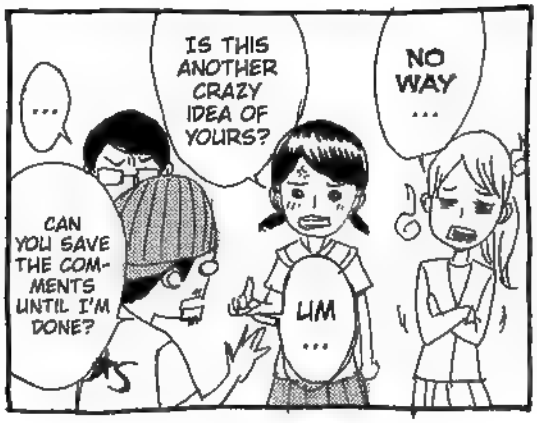
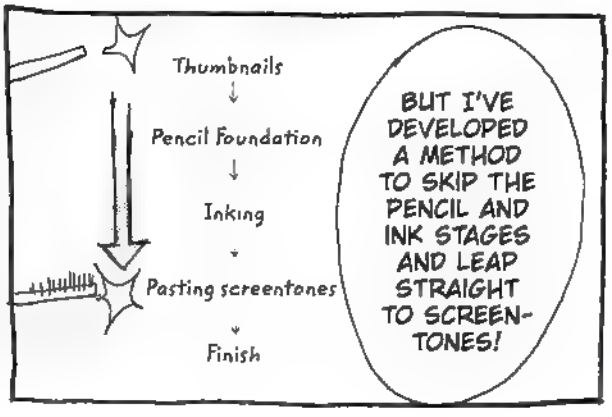



OMAKE PAGE
GOOD JOB!


AFTER THE THUMB-NAILS ARE DONE, THE MOST TIME-CONSUMING STAGE IS "INKING"!
COMING UP WITH THE STORY IS TAKASHIGE-SENSEI'S JOB, SO WE'LL SKIP THAT!
...
Story Outline
Thumbnails
Pencil Foundation
Inking
Pasting screentones
Finish
THIS IS THE GENERAL PROCESS OF MANGA CREATION.


...
IS THIS ANOTHER CRAZY IDEA OF YOURS?
NO WAY ...
CAN YOU SAVE THE COM-MENTS UNTIL I'M DONE?
UM ...


Thumbnails
Pencil Foundation
Inking
Pasting screentones
Finish
BUT I'VE DEVELOPED A METHOD TO SKIP THE PENCIL AND INK STAGES AND LEAP STRAIGHT TO SCREEN-TONES!

③According to the thumbnails, dip the eraser into ink and stamp it onto the draft.
EASY, RIGHT?
SEE?
① Choose an angle that you most often use from the volume and copy it onto the eraser.
②Use the cutter to carve a relief of the image.
You'll Need
Eraser
Design cutter
Auto-graph pen
Graphic novel
I SHALL CHRISTEN THIS PROCESS THE "STAMP DRAFTING METHOD"!!
...AND SAVES YOU MONEY ON INK AND PEN SUPPLIES!!
IT STABILIZES THE QUALITY OF YOUR ART...
THIS IS THE ULTIMATE OPTIMIZATION OF LABOR!!
IN CONCLUSION...
DON'T TELL THEM THAT!
ENJOY MY NEW STAMP METHOD IN THE NEXT VOLUME!
HMM...? WHAT ARE THOSE GLARES FOR?
...
THE 2009 NOBEL PRIZE FOR MANGA GOES TO ME!!
IT IS THE BIRTH OF A NEW ERA! HISTORY WILL HENCEFORTH BE SPLIT INTO B.S. (BEFORE STAMP) AND A.S. (AFTER STAMP)!
fin... 09.02

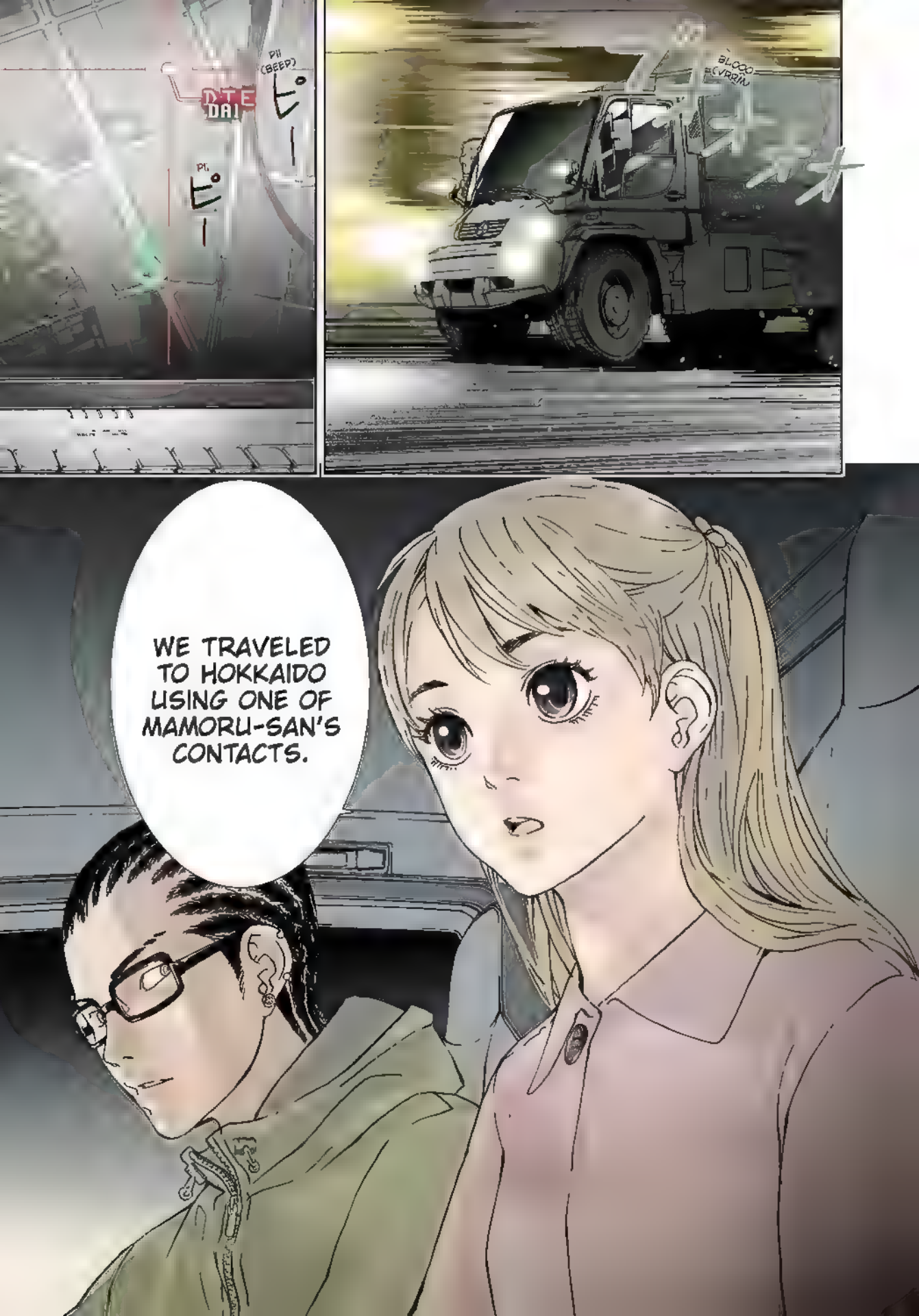
Until
Death
do us
Part

Art Staff
Suri (26) ♀: Chief Assistant
0-Second (23) ♂: Background Art
Taurus (24) ♀: Background Art
Romgok (22) ♀: Screentones

Military Advisor
Lee Hyun Seok (warmania)

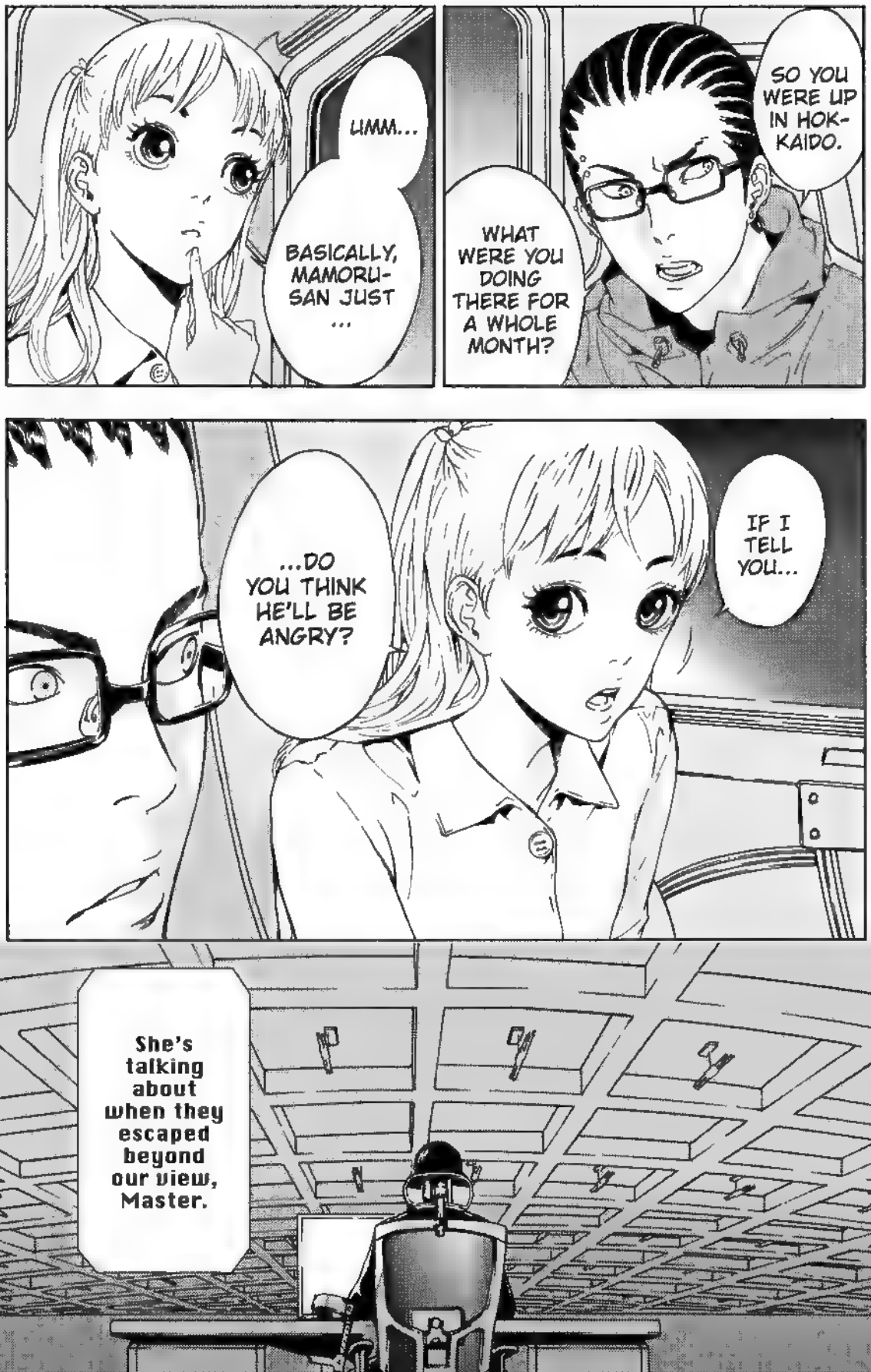
SPECIAL THANKS
Shingo Takano

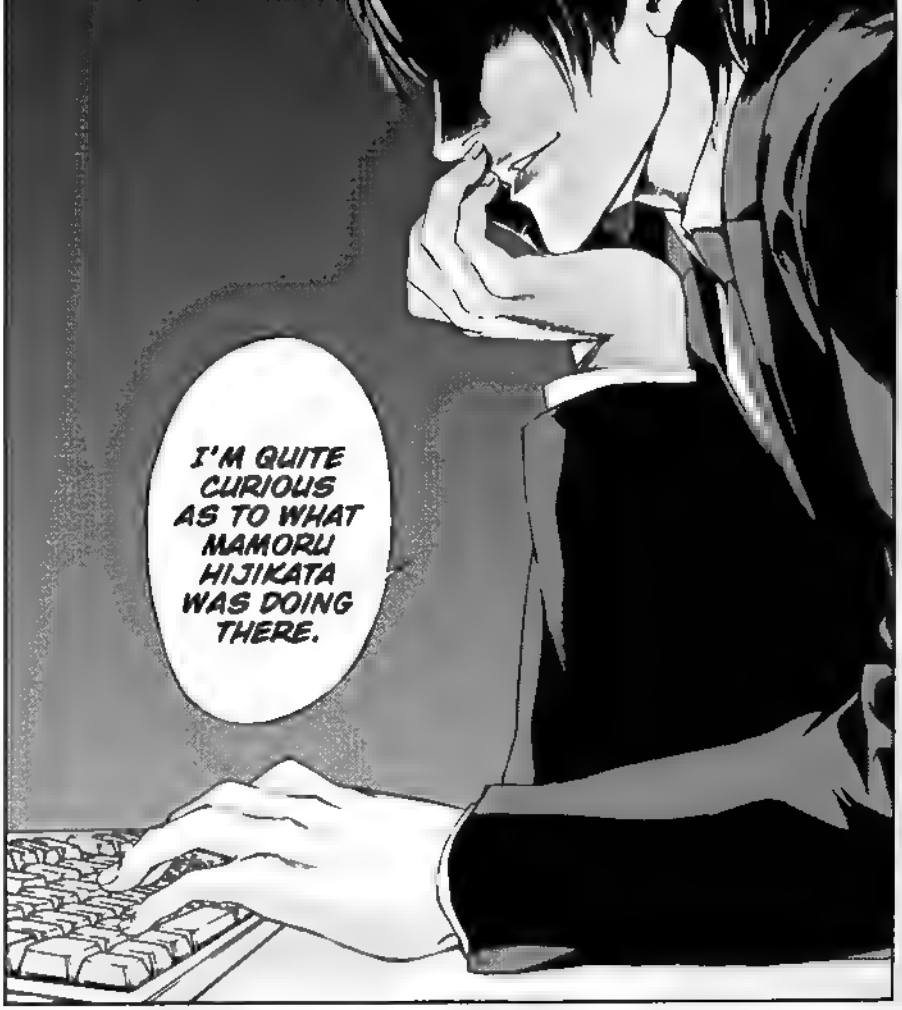
Until
Death
do us
Part


D.T.E
DAI
PII
(BEEP)
ピー
PI,
ピー
BLOOO
(VRRR)
WE TRAVELED TO HOKKAIDO USING ONE OF MAMORU-SAN'S CONTACTS.

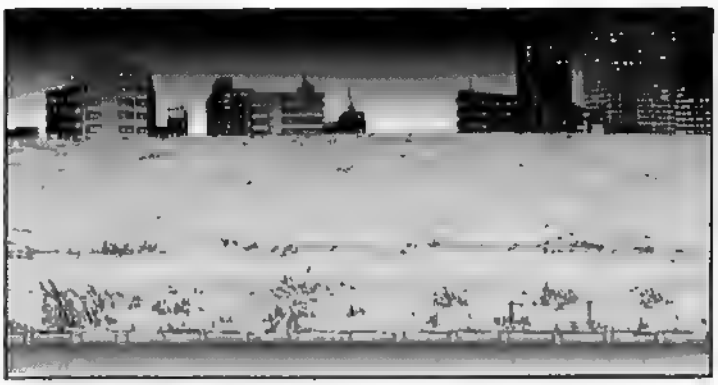
chapter 75

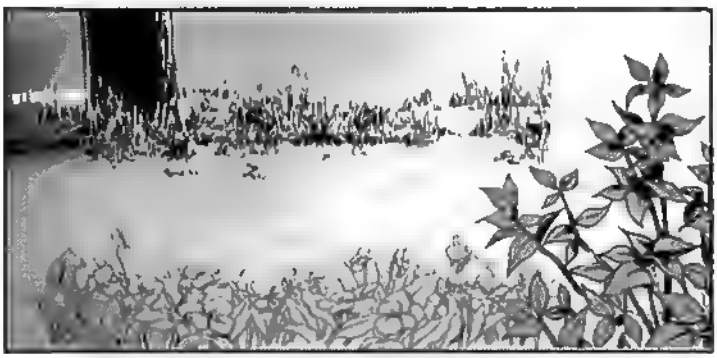
Until
Death
do us
Part

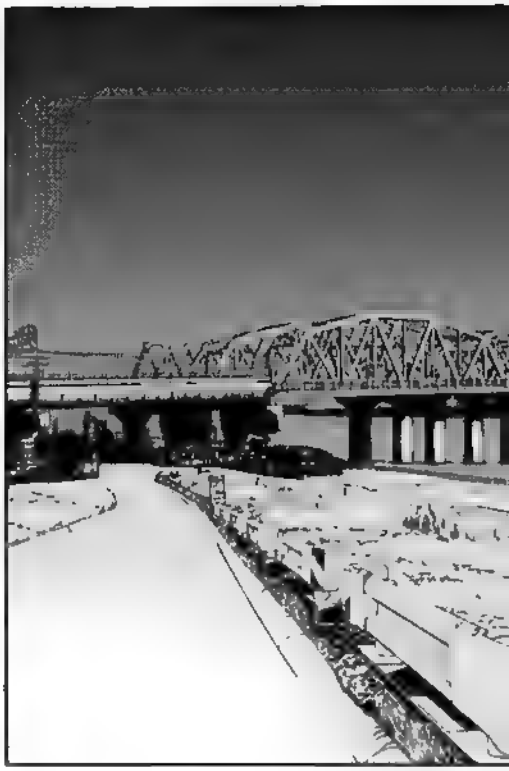

UMM...
BASICALLY, MAMORU-SAN JUST ...
SO YOU WERE UP IN HOK-KAIDO.
WHAT WERE YOU DOING THERE FOR A WHOLE MONTH?
IF I TELL YOU...
...DO YOU THINK HE'LL BE ANGRY?
She's talking about when they escaped beyond our view, Master.


I'M QUITE CURIOUS AS TO WHAT MAMORU HIJIKATA WAS DOING THERE.

YES. THE NETWORK'S REACH ISN'T SO POWERFUL THAT IT EXTENDS INTO THE FAR REACHES OF HOKKAIDO.







ザッ
ザザッ
GET OFF.

...

I FIGURED THIS MIGHT HAPPEN... JUST NOT QUITE SO ABRUPTLY.
DEPENDING ON YOUR ANSWER, YOU MIGHT HAVE A PRICE TO PAY!
SO WHAT THE HELL DID YOU ABANDON YOUR POSITION FOR!?

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO DO MY JOB THAT WAY!?
WHAT DID YOU DO!? SPEAK!
SHUT THE FUCK UP!
EVEN IGAWA SPENDS ALL HIS FREE TIME WORRYING HIMSELF SICK ABOUT THAT GIRL YOU TOOK WITH YOU!
WENT ON A WALK...
...
... HUH!?
A WALK.

EACH AND EVERY DAY, I LEFT HARUKA WITH MY CONTACT AND WENT ON A WALK. FOR AN ENTIRE MONTH.
I GOT BORED, SO HERE I AM AGAIN.
AND YOU TOOK ALONG A CHILD YOU WERE SWORN TO PROTECT!?
AND THAT'S YOUR ANSWER FOR WHY YOU WENT AWOL?
SHE FOLLOWED ME OF HER OWN VOLITION.
IT IS.

...
AT THE VERY LEAST, I'VE FIGURED OUT THAT I REALLY DON'T LIKE YOU!
HEH... DON'T GET SO WORKED UP...
IT'S EXAS-PERATION !!
BLOOOD (VRRM)
ブオオオ
!!?

MAMORU-SAN!
TSK!

THANKS.

HUH!?
HERE YOU GO.

...NOT THAT I GIVE A CRAP ABOUT YOUR APPROVAL ...
I WON'T LET YOU GET OFF SCOT-FREE UNTIL YOU CAN PROVE TO ME THAT YOUR SKILLS ARE AT A SATISFACTORY LEVEL.
PERFECT TIMING.

SHOVE IT UP YOUR ASS!
...BUT NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, SURE.
WITH THESE, I CAN PROPERLY CHECK MY SWINGS.
GOOD GRIEF...
GYURURURU (VROOM)
HERE WE GO!

Tell him, then.
No way!
HEY! KNOCK IT OFF, YOU TWO!
DANGEROUS FOR YOU, I MEAN.
DON'T DO THIS! IT'S DANGER-OUS!
DON'T WORRY, I'M NOT GOING TO KILL HIM.

...RIGHT BACK AT YOU!
...IN THAT CASE ...
WATCH OUT!

ギャン
GYAN (TWOOM)
ピ
PI (FLICK)
R
I'M NOT GONNA SCREW THIS UP!
!?
SA (VRMMM)
SA

I BELIEVE YOU'D SUPPORT ME FOR SOMETHING THIS SMALL RIGHT, IGAWA?
ZUSHAA (2SHK)
CAN IT WITH THE SNAPPY COM-MENTS ...
A REVERSE-STEERING BIKE...
THIS WOULD DEFINITELY THROW YOU IF YOU WENT IN WITH THE USUAL ASSUMPTIONS ...
BYUN (ZIP)
BYUN

ギュオ

BAN
(BWAM)
!?

And they're filled with a super-elastic urethane that prevents them from popping.

THOSE TIRES ARE MADE OF A SPECIAL MATERIAL. YOU CAN'T SLICE THEM OPEN THAT WAY.

LOOK, YOU ALREADY KNOW EXACTLY HOW MAMORU FIGHTS!
WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON, ANYWAY !?
Uh... dude...
...
NO ONE SAID ANYTHING ABOUT MAKING THIS A FAIR FIGHT!
I AIN'T A GENTLE-MAN OR A KNIGHT!!
(SLIDE)

...

チャッ

TIME TO GET SERIOUS.

HERE WE GO ...

TIME TO GET SERIOUS.
HERE WE GO ...

...
チャッ
CHA (CHK)

SAPPORO, HOK-KAIDO

SAPPOPO
スゥ・・・

I JUST HOPE I CAN GET THERE BEFORE NOON...
PHEW...

BUOOO
VRRRMM
chapter 76
WATCH OUT!!
BUO

chapter 76

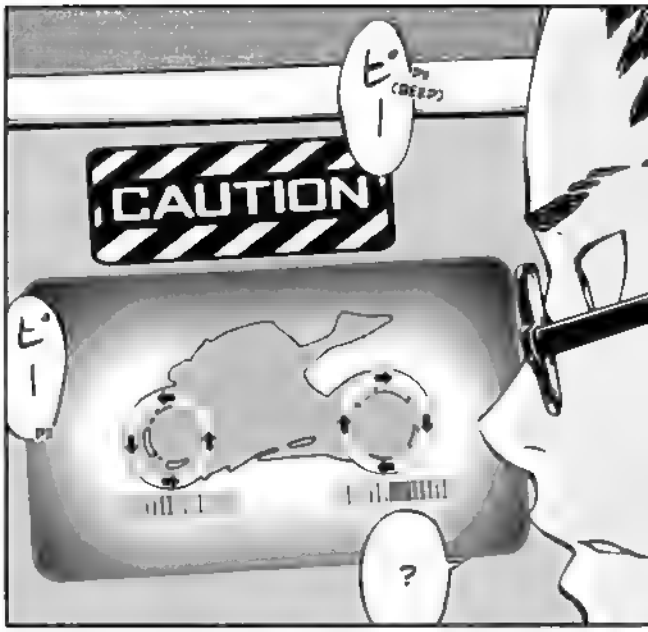
chapter 76

GRUNT
GRUNT
TA
(TAP)
DOSU
(THWUMP)
(WHOOSH)
RUN

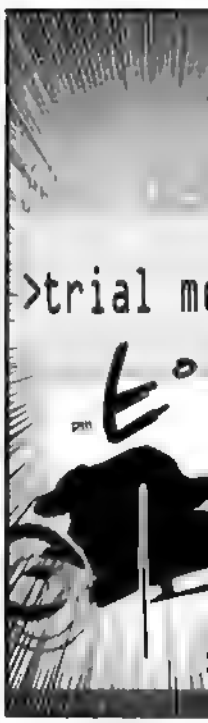
ZA (ISHH)
ZA
...
KI (SCREE)
HEH HEH!
KUI (TUG)

ゴゴゴゴ

ギュイ
キュイ


ピー
(BEEP)
CAUTION
ピー
?

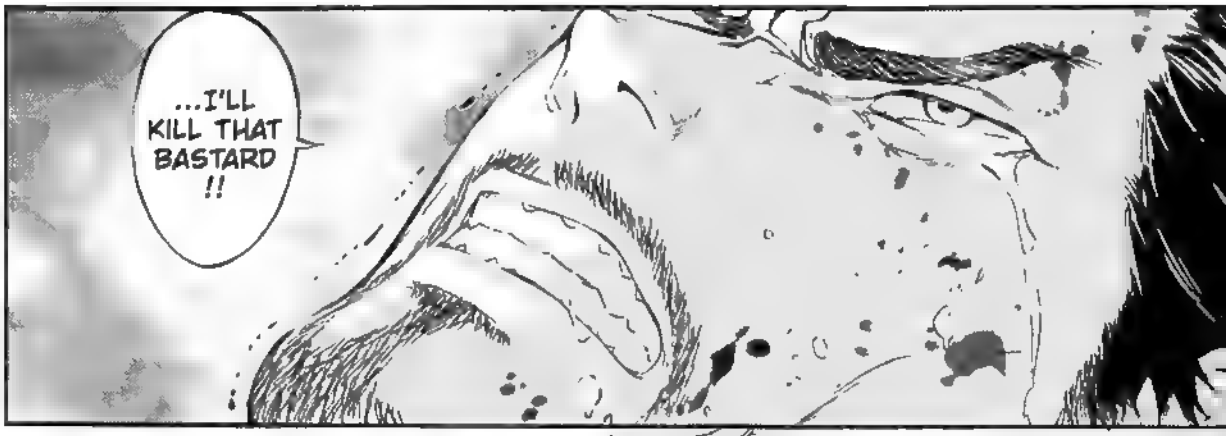
KYURU
(WHIRR)
キュルル
ガバッ

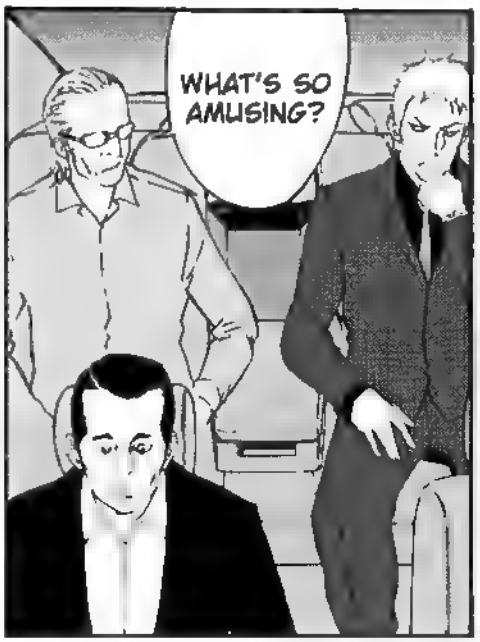

>trial m
ヒ

BAN
(BAHH)
MWUH
!?
!?

DADA
DADA
DADA
HERE, THIS WAY!

I'LL K-KILL HIM...
I SWEAR TO GOD ...


...I'LL KILL THAT BASTARD !!


WHAT'S SO AMUSING?

ゴ
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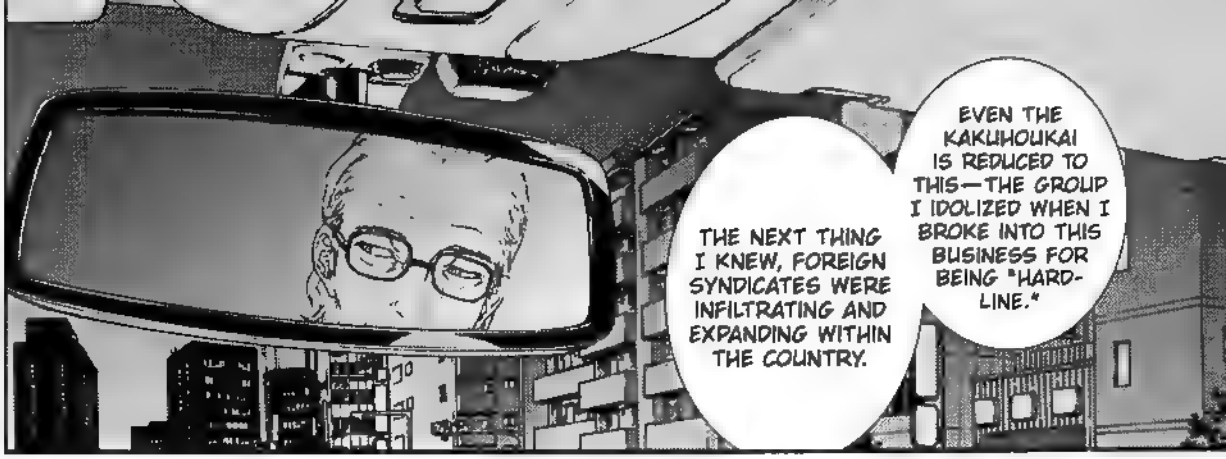
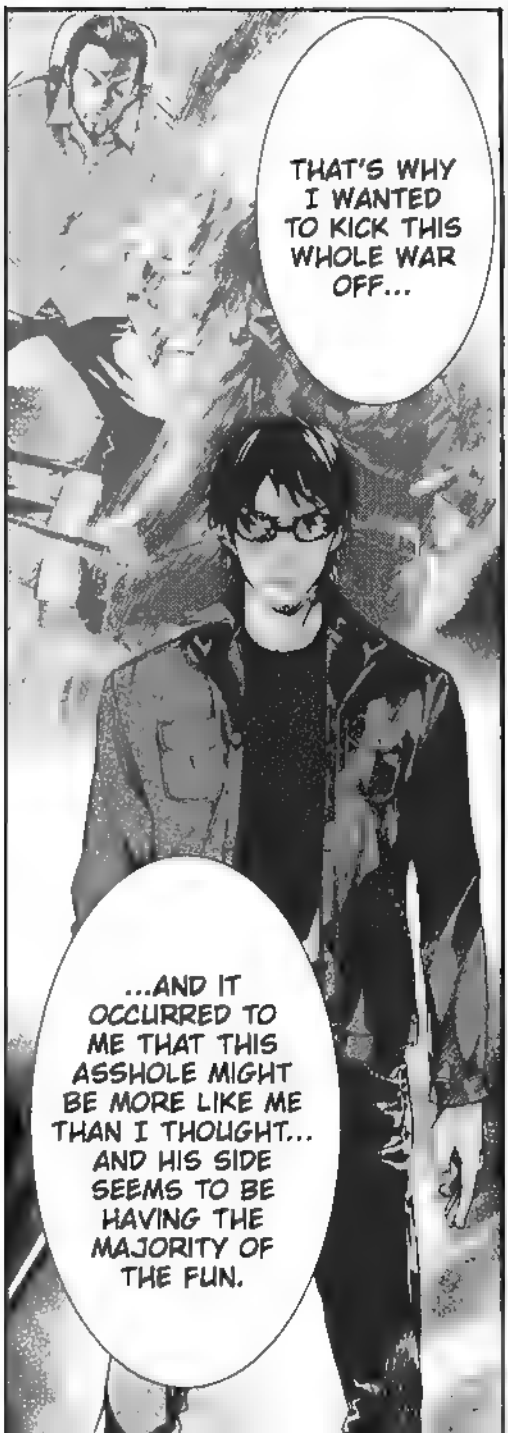
オ

...
WAS I SMILING?
!?
EVER SINCE THEY INTRODUCED THE ORGANIZED CRIME CRACK-DOWN LAWS, THE YAKUZA'S BEEN LIKE A DEFANGED BEAST, HIDING BEHIND THE SCENES WHENEVER POSSIBLE...
THEY KEEP THEIR BUSINESS LIQUID, FATTENING UP ON STOCKS AND INVESTMENTS.
KIDS THESE DAYS MIMIC THAT STYLE, FORMING CLIQUES BASED AROUND DECEIVING AND DEFRAUDING OTHERS.


THE NEXT THING I KNEW, FOREIGN SYNDICATES WERE INFILTRATING AND EXPANDING WITHIN THE COUNTRY.
EVEN THE KAKUHOUKAI IS REDUCED TO THIS—THE GROUP I IDOLIZED WHEN I BROKE INTO THIS BUSINESS FOR BEING "HARD-LINE."


THAT'S WHY I WANTED TO KICK THIS WHOLE WAR OFF...
...AND IT OCCURRED TO ME THAT THIS ASSHOLE MIGHT BE MORE LIKE ME THAN I THOUGHT... AND HIS SIDE SEEMS TO BE HAVING THE MAJORITY OF THE FUN.

I CAN'T STAND WHAT WE'VE BEEN REDUCED TO. I WANT TO SHOW THE YOUNG FOLKS THESE DAYS WHAT THE REAL YAKUZA ARE ALL ABOUT.
IT AIN'T WORTH TREADIN' DOWN THIS PATH IF YOU DON'T WIND UP IN A "KILL OR BE KILLED" WORLD THAT REALLY MAKES YOU FEEL ALIVE.

I'M NOT GOING TO TAKE THIS DEFEAT LYING DOWN. JUST YOU WATCH.
...
DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA. I HATE LOSING, NO MATTER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.
HEH-HEH! THAT'S ONE THING WE'VE GOT IN COMMON.
RRRR
RRRR
!!?
REALLY? OKAY, DO THAT.
SEEMS WE MIGHT HAVE A CLUE TO OUR SAMURAI'S IDENTITY.
HUH!?

WE'VE FOUND SOMEONE WHO CROSSED PATHS WITH HIM IN BATTLE A YEAR AGO.
IN BATTLE!?
ZUDOO. (ZDOOM)
DOSU (THUMP)

...QUITE A SURPRISE...
HEH! AND DON'T ASSUME GOING FORWARD AND BACKWARD IS ALL I CAN DO.
BUCEPHALUS HAS ALL-WHEEL DRIVE AND DUAL-WHEEL STEERING. IT HAS ABSOLUTE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT.
THE NAME OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT'S HORSE.
IT WAS ALSO THE NAME OF BARON MUNCHAUSEN'S HORSE IN HIS TALL TALES.
WHAT'S "BUCEPHALUS"?

FORGET THAT...THE NOTABLE THING HERE IS HIS ABILITY TO MANIPULATE IT.
HE UTILIZES THE BIKE'S FEATURES TO MOVE IT IN UNPREDICTABLE WAYS.
THAT'S NOT SOMETHING JUST ANYBODY CAN DO.
WHICH MEANS THIS GUY WAS BORN TO RIDE THIS THING...
KYUN (SQUEAK)
ZUGAAA (SLIDE)
HE'S TRYING TO TAKE OUT MY LEGS!?

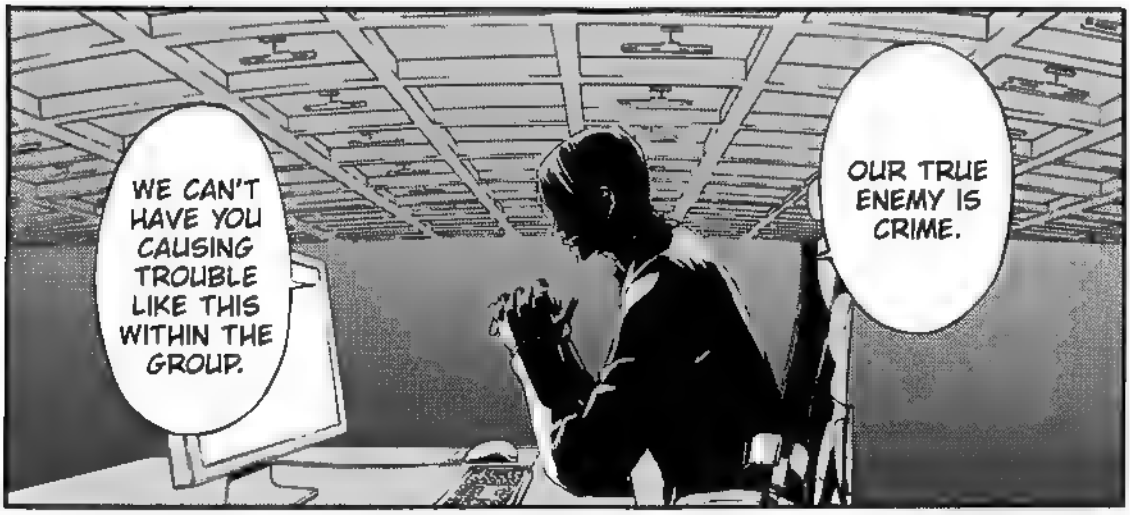
BA
(LEAP)

SUPA
(SNICK)
GAGAGA
(VRRMM)
FIGURED I COULD THROW YOU OFF BALANCE AND TOSS YOU UP IN THE AIR.
THAT'S IT?

HYU (SWISH)
ヒュッ
DAMN... SO HE EVEN KNOWS HOW TO AVOID A LEG SWEEP?
YOU AIN'T GONNA GET AWAY WITH THE SAME TRICK TWICE.
BA (ZOOM)
BA
IF WE DON'T STOP THIS, HE'S GOING TO GET HURT.

!?
You will stop now.
Under-stood.
WHO WAS THAT !?
DON'T TRY TO INTER-RUPT US!
Think of me as a member of the Element Network's management.

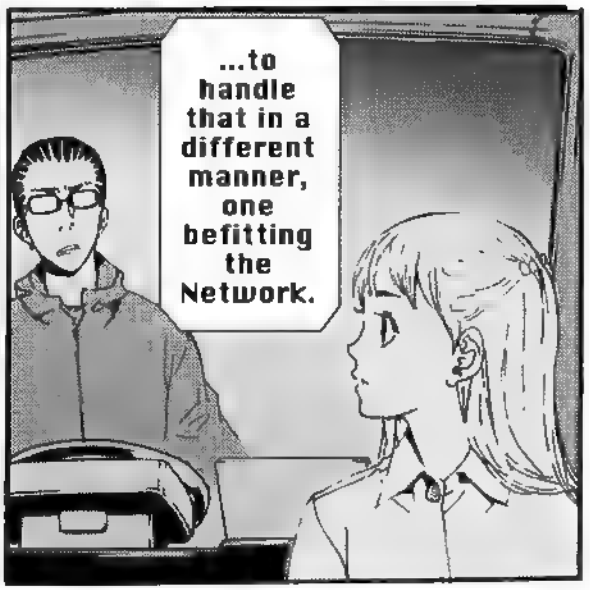
HMM !?
...IT'S YOU...


WE CAN'T HAVE YOU CAUSING TROUBLE LIKE THIS WITHIN THE GROUP.
OUR TRUE ENEMY IS CRIME.

THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M SAYING. I WOULD PREFER...

SO WHAT, YOU'RE JUST GONNA LET HIM GO AWOL WITHOUT COMMENT !?

HEH...
I GUESS I'LL HEAR YOU OUT.


...to handle that in a different manner, one befitting the Network.

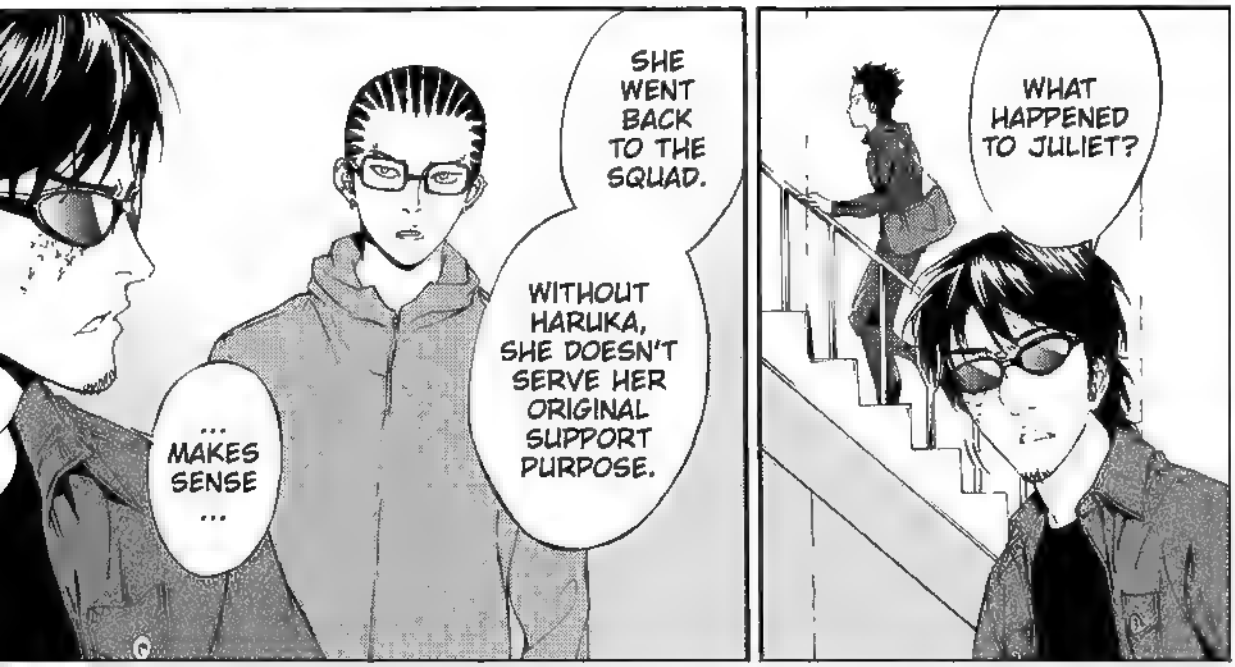
THE KAKUHOUKAI IS PLANNING A MASSIVE CRIME WAVE. DESTROY THEM WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS.
TWO WEEKS ...?
YOU'RE ASK-ING THE IMPOS-SIBLE ...
AGAINST A GROUP LIKE THEM!?
If you are not up to the task...
...Mamoru Hijikata will be handed over to the police to answer for his crimes.

...
WHAT
!?
...

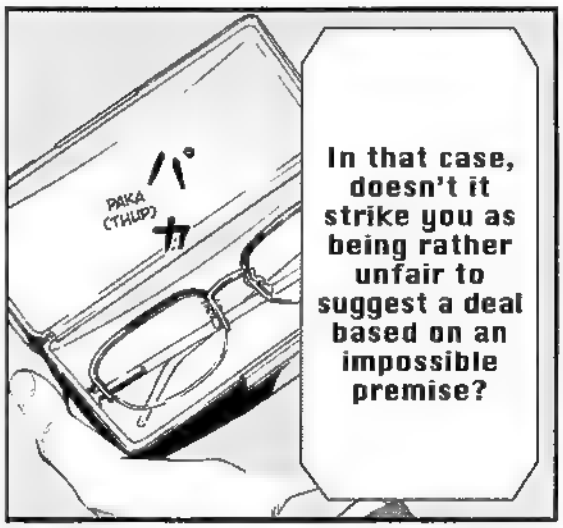
YOU WILL HAVE YOUR NORMAL BREADTH OF SUPPORT DURING THE TIME ALLOTTED.
chapter 77
BUT IF YOU TAKE EVEN A SINGLE DAY LONGER THAN THAT, MAMORU HIJIKATA ...

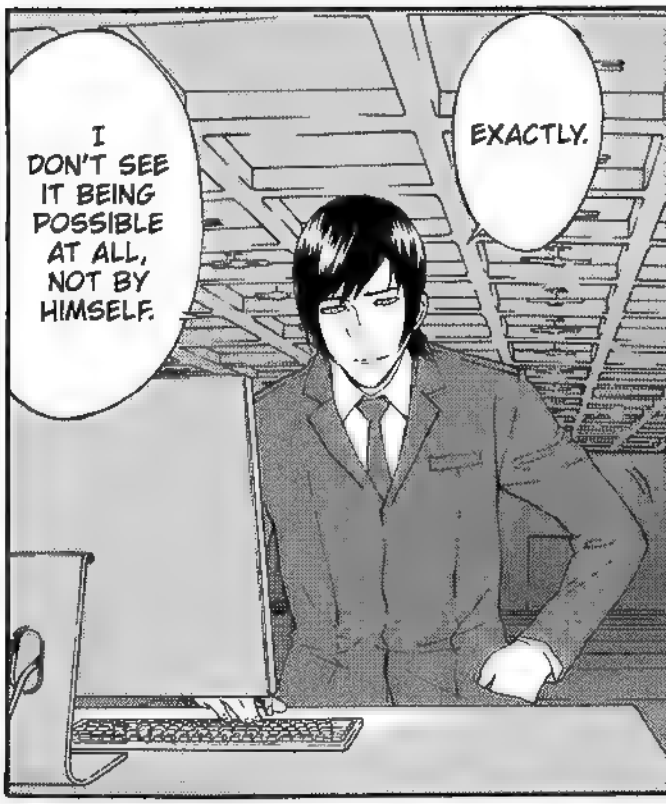
chapter 77

...
KEH
...


SHE WENT BACK TO THE SQUAD.
WITHOUT HARUKA, SHE DOESN'T SERVE HER ORIGINAL SUPPORT PURPOSE.
...
MAKES SENSE
...
WHAT HAPPENED TO JULIET?

File Edit View Info Help
start
unknown online
I can't imagine that this goal will be possible within two weeks.

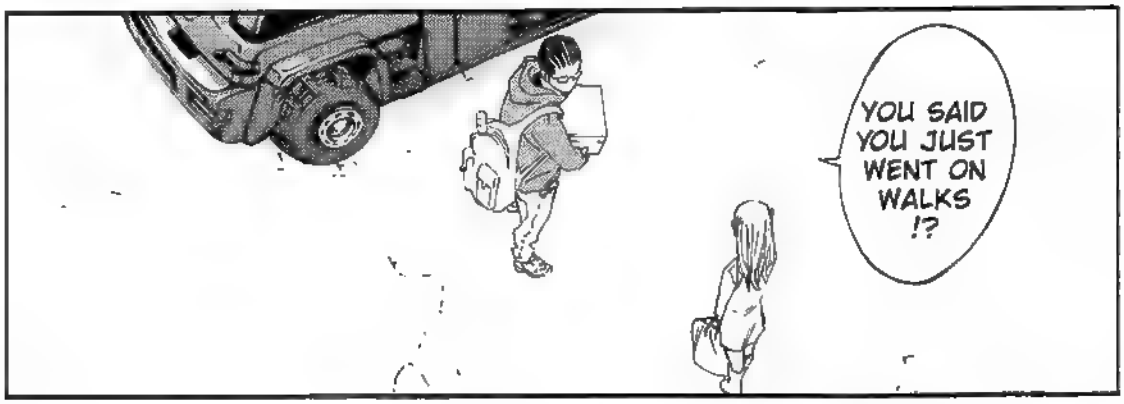

PAKA (THUP)
In that case, doesn't it strike you as being rather unfair to suggest a deal based on an impossible premise?


I DON'T SEE IT BEING POSSIBLE AT ALL, NOT BY HIMSELF.
EXACTLY.

...

IT ALL DEPENDS ON HIS INNATE LUCK, CLUTCH INSTINCTS AND WHATEVER TRICKS ARE UP HIS SLEEVE.
WHAT FACTORS MIGHT CHANGE WITHOUT HIS INTENTION?
THAT WILL EVOLVE DEPENDING ON THE CHOICES HE MAKES.

JUST WATCH.
YOU MIGHT BE IN FOR A VERY UNEXPECTED TREAT.
I don't understand your meaning.
File
start
unknown
online


YOU SAID YOU JUST WENT ON WALKS !?

YES!
BUT MAMORU-SAN JUST SAID IT WAS A "WALK"...
THAT'S MORE LIKE A HIKE THAN A WALK!

YEP...WE WALKED THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS, EVERY DAY...

STUFF ABOUT SWORDS, STUFF ABOUT MAMORU-SAN'S PAST...
!?
AND WE WERE IN HOKKAIDO THE ENTIRE TIME.
WE WERE STAYING WITH INABA-SAN, WHO WAS MAMORU-SAN'S SWORD TEACHER. HE TAUGHT US LOTS OF THINGS.
OH YEAH?
MUTE
KACHI (CLICK)
YOU SHOULD CONTINUE RECORDING. REPORT ANY-THING I NEED TO HEAR AND NOTHING ELSE.
KACHA (CLICK)
IT'S NOT FOR ME TO LISTEN TO.
THE REST OF THIS WILL BE PRIVATE.
GATA (THUMP)

Yes, master.
BU (CLICK)
RECORD THAT TOO, WHILE YOU'RE AT IT.
I'M GOING TO CONSULT WITH OUR ADVISER.
KO (TOK)
TOK
DOSA (THUMP)
THAT SURE LEFT A BAD TASTE IN MY MOUTH!!
IF THE BOSS HADN'T GOTTEN INVOLVED, I'D HAVE SHOWED THAT ASS-HOLE UP!
SHIT!
BASA (FWAP)
BIKU (FLINCH)

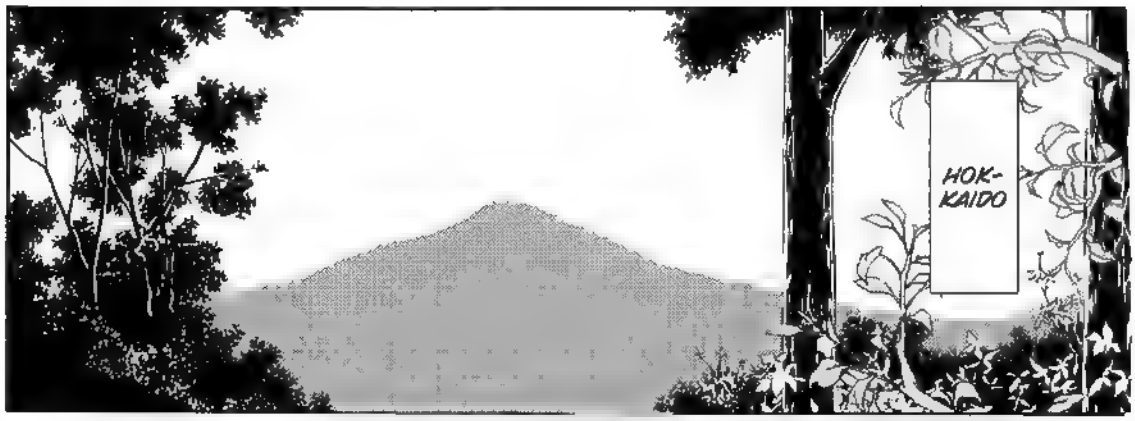
IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE ...

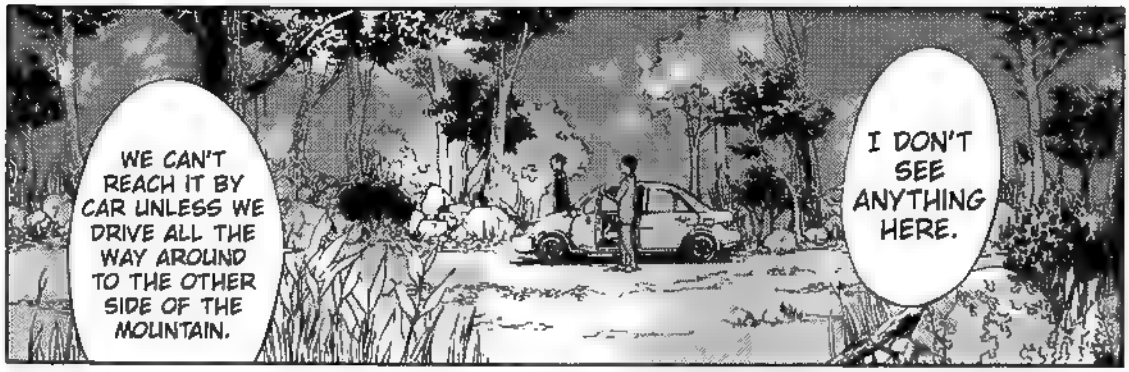
HE'S USUALLY SO RUTHLESS, THAT PUNISHMENT SEEMED WEAK IN COMPARISON.
LOW PROBABILITY OR NOT, WHAT MAKES THAT DICK SO SPECIAL THAT HE'S AT LEAST GIVEN A CHANCE TO PROVE HIMSELF?

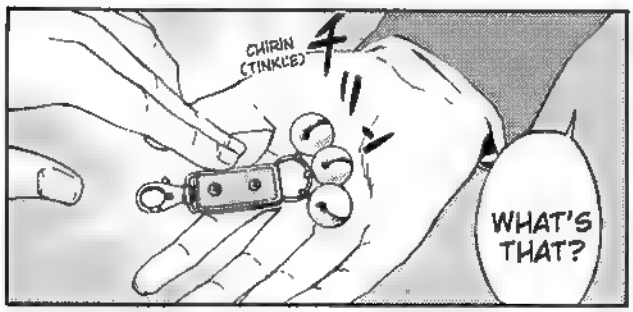
BECAUSE OF THE GIRL...?
IS THERE SOME KINDA SECRET WITH HER?

...

BA (ZIP)
BA
BA
BYUO (WHOOSH)
BUN (WHOOSH)
TWO WEEKS, EH? SHOULD BE FUN ...
HOW DO YOU FIGHT AN ENEMY WHEN YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW ITS FULL SIZE?

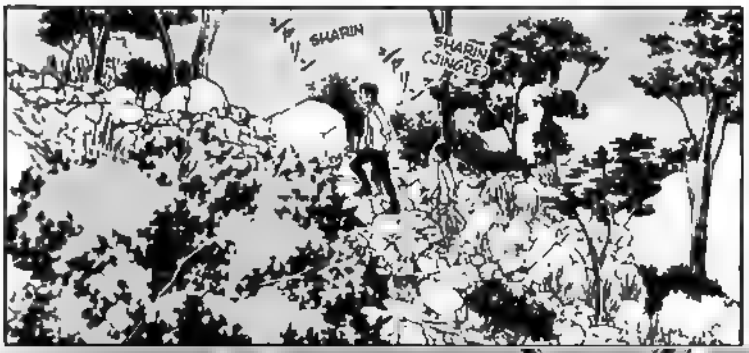

HOK-
KAIDO

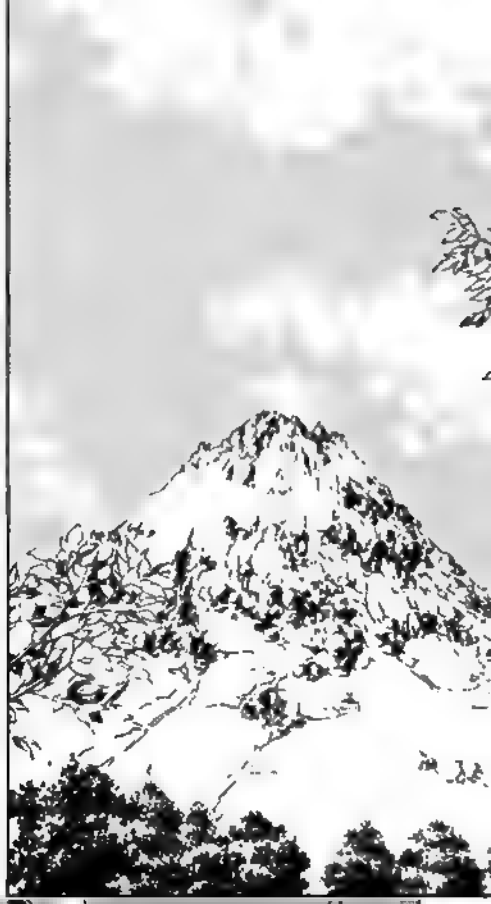

I DON'T SEE ANYTHING HERE.
WE CAN'T REACH IT BY CAR UNLESS WE DRIVE ALL THE WAY AROUND TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN.

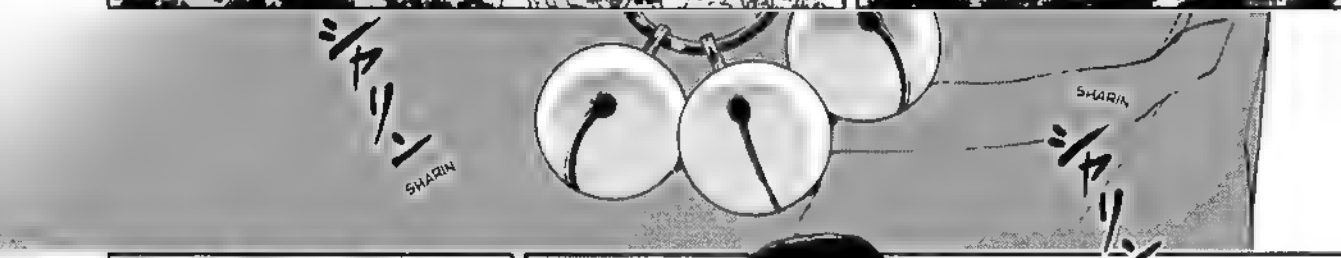

CHIRIN (TINKLE)
WHAT'S THAT?

THIS WAY WILL BE FASTER. LET'S WALK.
?
GOSO (RUSTLE)

A BELL TO KEEP THE BEARS AWAY.
...


SHARIN
SHARIN (JINGLE)




シャリン
SHARIN
SHARIN
シャリン

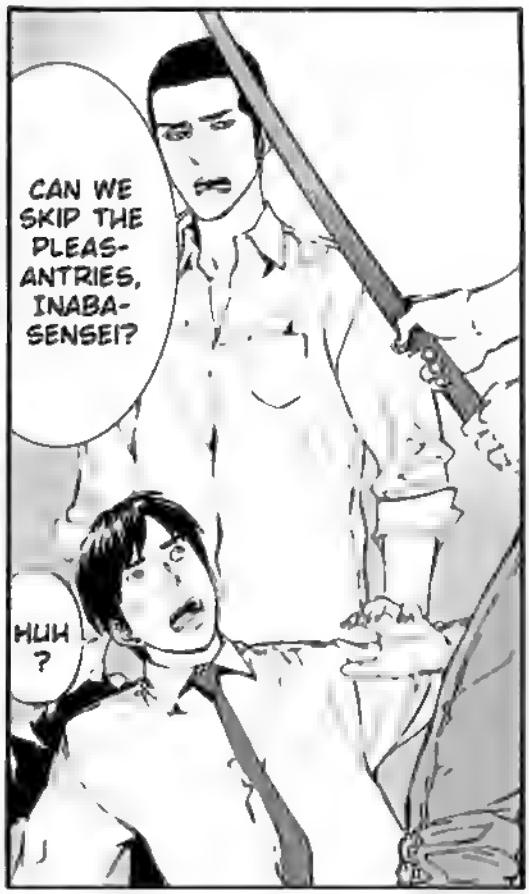
OH.

ONE MINUTE, WE GET PERMISSION TO INVESTIGATE, THE NEXT I'M ON A MOUNTAIN IN HOKKAIDO...
SHARIN
シャリン
SHARIN
シャリン
ARE WE NEARLY THERE YET?

A HOUSE...? HERE?
...

AAAAH !!
BA (LEAP)
DUO (HOOOH)

ヒ°
ヤッ

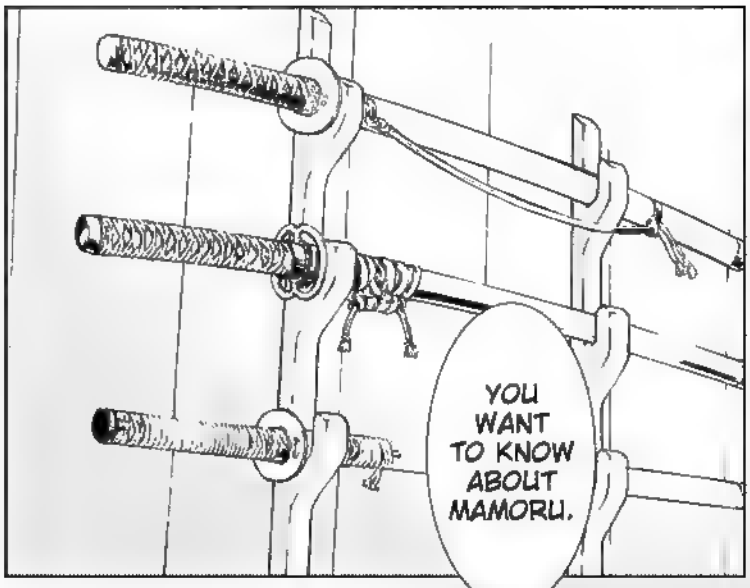

CAN WE SKIP THE PLEAS-ANTRIES, INABA-SENSEI?
HUH ?

I DON'T SEE WHY WE HAVE TO GO THROUGH THIS EVERY TIME.
...I TAKE IT THIS ALWAYS HAPPENS ...?

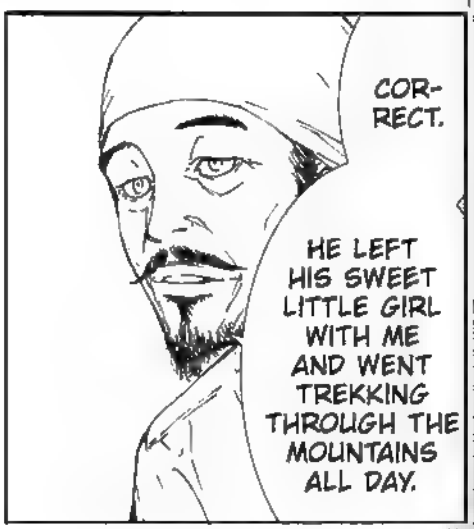
WELL, YOU'RE NO FUN.
MAMORU INDULGED ME FOR A WHILE, AT LEAST.

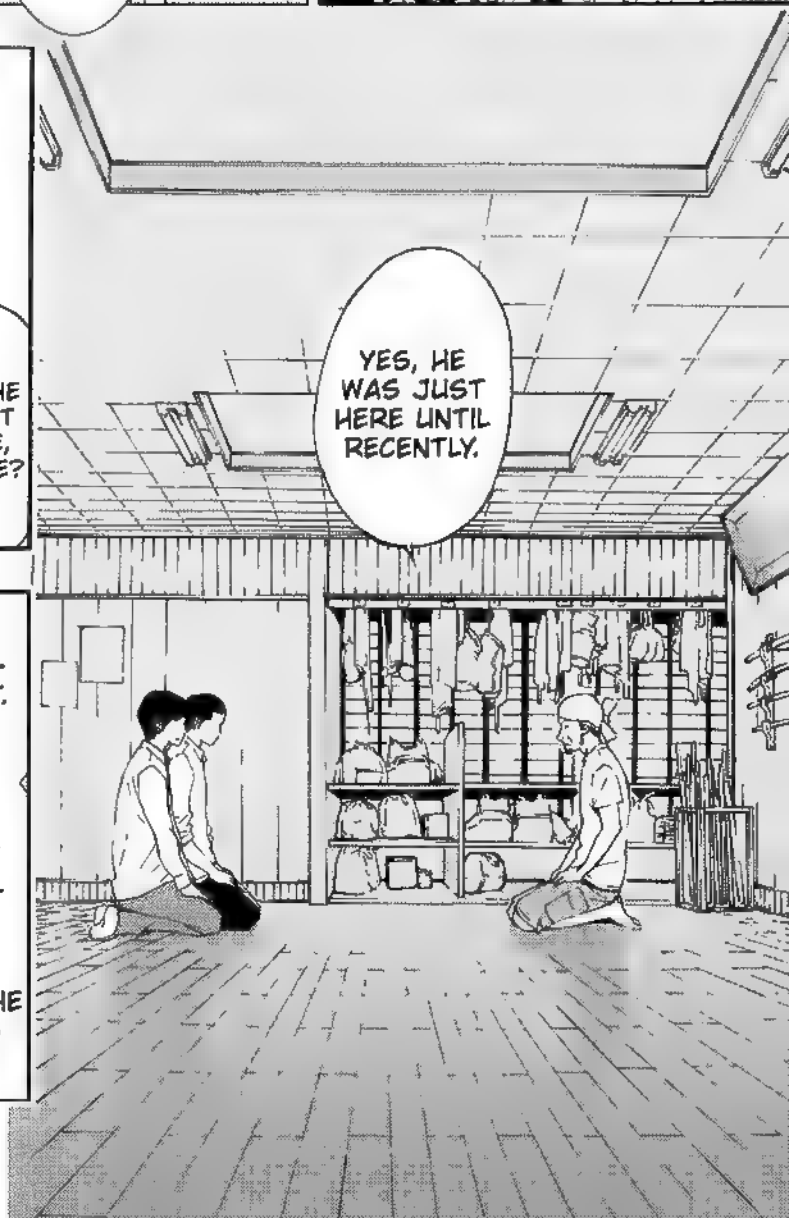
SO...HE DID SHOW UP HERE, THEN?
AH...
WHAT, YOU'RE NOT HERE JUST TO CHEER UP A LONELY RETIREE?
YOU'RE JUST LOOKING FOR HIM.
...

chapter 78


YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT MAMORU.

BUT...HE WASN'T ALONE, WAS HE?


COR-RECT.
HE LEFT HIS SWEET LITTLE GIRL WITH ME AND WENT TREKKING THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS ALL DAY.


YES, HE WAS JUST HERE UNTIL RECENTLY.

THAT IS...
BECAUSE THAT'S MY STYLE HE USES...
WHY WOULD YOU LEND AID TO A MAN LIKE HIM!?
HE'S SUCCESSFULLY APPLYING THE ANCIENT WAYS OF JAPANESE SWORDSMANSHIP TO MODERN COMBAT.
THAT'S MY REASONING.
THAT'S YOUR REASONING!?

不動心
ISN'T THAT WHAT EVERY MASTER OF A STYLE SHOULD THINK ABOUT?
THE SKILLS I TEACH... DO THEY WORK?
IS IT JUST AN OUTWARD FORM, NOTHING ELSE? DOES IT ACTUALLY WORK IN TODAY'S CONTEXT?
I CAN BARELY SLEEP AT NIGHT FOR WONDERING THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS.
...

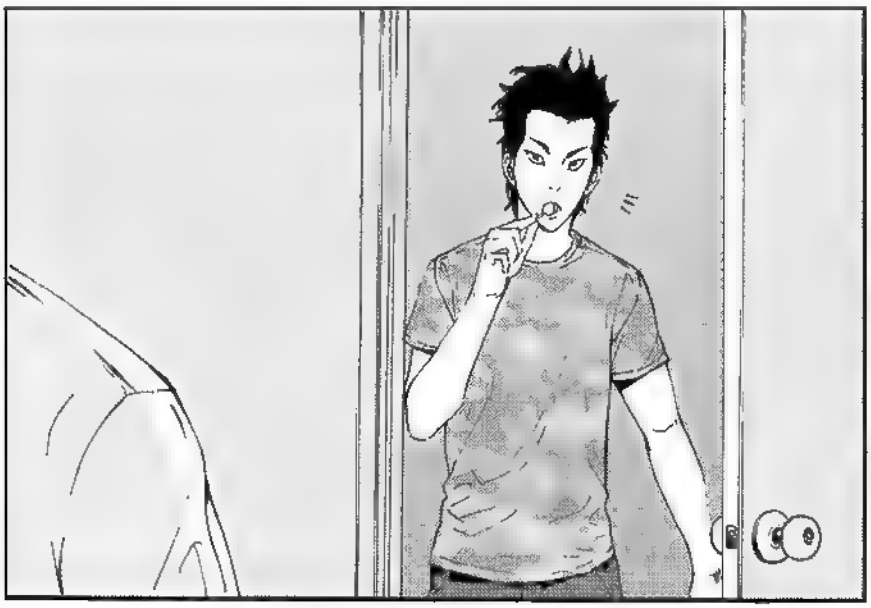
GASHII
(CRACK)
GEAR GENDA

DADAN (STOMP)
GA (WHACK)
BASHI (FWAP)
PAN (SMACK)
PAPAN

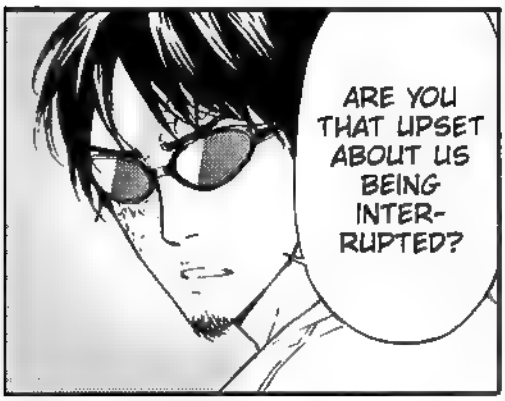
KOTO (THUNK)
コトッ
DID YOU NOTICE ANYTHING?
JUST THAT THERE'S A REASON YOU'RE A POTENTIAL JAPANESE CHAMPION.
源田
GEAR: GENDA

IF YOU SWITCHED THE BAMBOO OUT FOR A REAL SWORD...
I MEANT ACTUAL CRITICISM...
BUT SINCE THIS ISN'T SOMETHING YOU CAN PUT INTO PRACTICE UNTIL YOU'VE SPENT TIME MASTERING THE "FORM," THAT'S NOT A REAL ISSUE AT THIS POINT.
WITH REAL, HEAVY SWORDS, THERE'S ALWAYS THE POSSIBILITY THAT YOU'LL END UP OVER-POWERED.
THERE ARE TIMES DURING A FIERCE BACK-AND-FORTH WHEN YOU WIND UP IN A DEAD-LOCK.
...I SEE...
IN FACT, I FEEL LIKE I'M LEARNING MORE FROM YOU THAN VICE VERSA.

PRACTICING A FORM IS BASICALLY A TYPE OF IMAGE TRAINING.
YOU IMAGINE AN ENCOUNTER AND REPEAT THE SAME MOTIONS OVER AND OVER...
...UNTIL YOU CAN PULL THEM OFF IDENTICALLY, NO MATTER THE SITUATION.
UNTIL YOU REACH THAT POINT, THERE'S NO REASON TO PRACTICE THE OLD STYLE.
YOU WON'T GET BETTER. EACH PERSON HAS THEIR OWN AFFINITIES.
...IMAGE TRAINING...



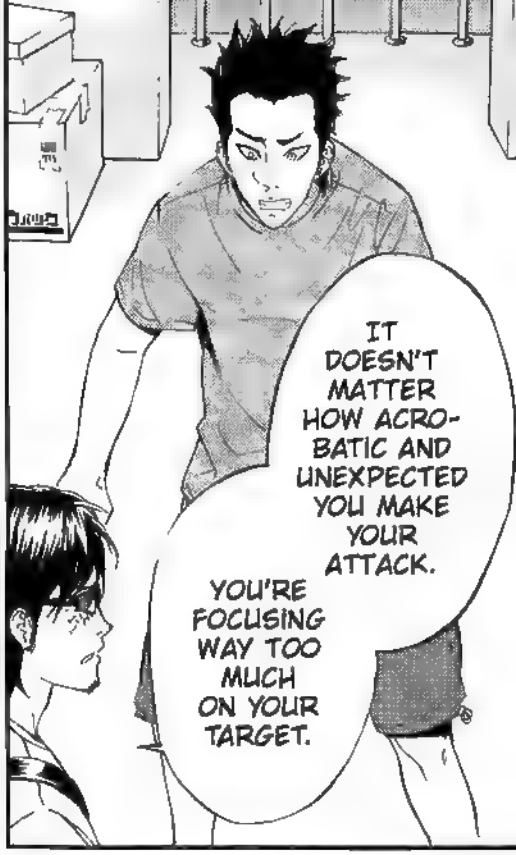
TSK.


ARE YOU THAT UPSET ABOUT US BEING INTER-RUPTED?

OF COURSE I AM.

IN THAT CASE ...
...FEEL FREE TO TAKE A SHOT AT ME ANYTIME YOU LIKE. IF YOU ACTUALLY MANAGE TO LAND A GOOD BLOW, I'LL ADMIT DEFEAT.
!?
MUKA (GRR)
COCKY BASTARD !!
BUN (WHOOSH)
NOT EVEN CLOSE!
I DON'T HAVE TO SEE YOU TO DODGE WHEN YOU'RE BLAZING THAT KIND OF HATRED.

...
TO CATCH YOUR ENEMY OFF-GUARD, YOU NEED TO ELIMINATE THE "INITIATION," "MOVEMENT," AND "SPACE."
WHEN YOU'RE UP AGAINST AN EXPERIENCED FIGHTER, YOU'LL FAIL EVERY SINGLE TIME IF HE READS ANY ONE OF THOSE THREE.


IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW ACRO-BATIC AND UNEXPECTED YOU MAKE YOUR ATTACK.
YOU'RE FOCUSING WAY TOO MUCH ON YOUR TARGET.

GACHA (CLICK)
ガチャ
BLIN (WHOOSH)

SH-SHUT UP!!
BUO (WHOOSH)

SHU (SWISH)
...
SHU

バタンッ
BATAN
(THUMP)
YOU'D BETTER WORK A LOT HARDER AT THAT UNTIL YOU CAN REACT WITHOUT THINKING.
GOD, I'M GONNA GET HIM SO GOOD...
...
YOU REALLY DO LIKE TEACHING, DON'T YOU?

YOU COULD JUST TELL HIM, RATHER THAN TEASING HIM LIKE THAT.
WHAT CAN I SAY? IT'S A HABIT.
HOTHEADS DON'T WANT TO REFLECT ON THE THINGS THEIR ENEMIES SAY.
NO. YOU NEED TO MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF GUYS LIKE HIM TO BEAT IT INTO THEIR HEADS.
IS THAT HOW IT WORKS, COMBAT MASTER?
THAT'S HOW IT WORKS.

VERY WELL.
AND HOW ABOUT HARUKA TOOYAMA?
SHE WAS NORMAL. MAMORU TOLD ME HE'D TAUGHT HER SOME BASICS OF FIGHTING ...
...AND THAT HE WANTED ME TO MAKE HER ABLE TO FEND FOR HERSELF...
...SHOULD SHE FACE DANGER.
不動
I'VE WANTED TO ASK... YOU'VE CALLED HIM A MURDERER BEFORE...
...BUT HE WASN'T EVER CHARGED WITH HOMICIDE, WAS HE? HOW DID IT HAPPEN?
THAT ANSWERS ONE QUESTION... WHICH IS THAT SHE'S BEEN ACCOMPANYING HIJIKATA OF HER OWN FREE WILL.
BUT WHY WOULD SHE STAY WITH A MURDERER?

HUH!? WHAT WAS THE...
MAMORU ...
HE WAS CHARGED WITH INVOLUNTARY MAN-SLAUGHTER.
THEY DIDN'T BELIEVE HE HAD INTENT TO KILL.
...BEAT HIS TEACHER, MAKABE, TO DEATH WITH A WOODEN BLADE IN THE MIDDLE OF A FIERCE TRAINING SESSION.

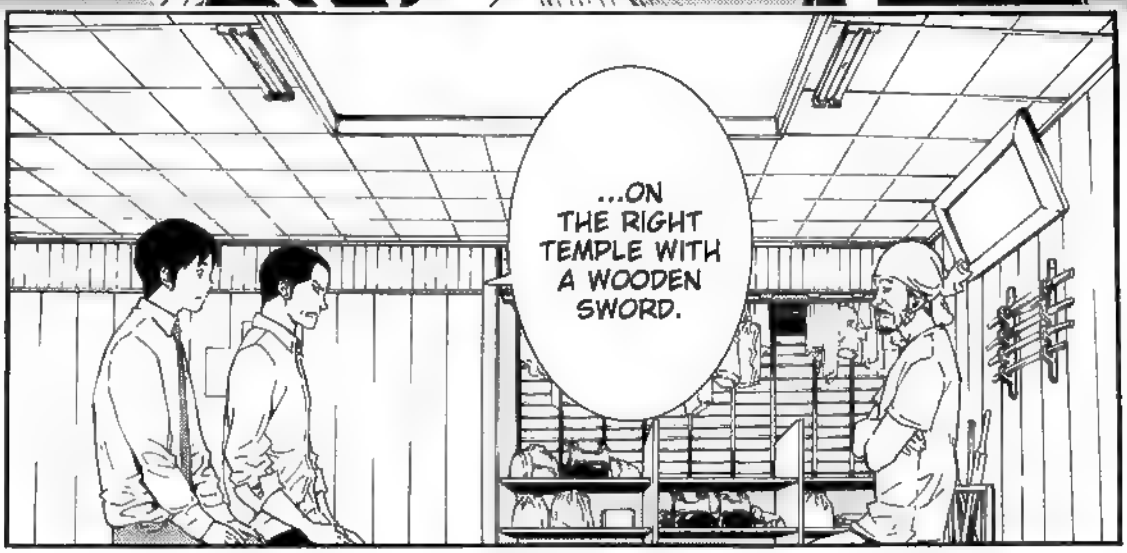
Until
Death
do us
Part

ZAZAZA (FAST)
GA (WHACK)

chapter 79

chapter 79

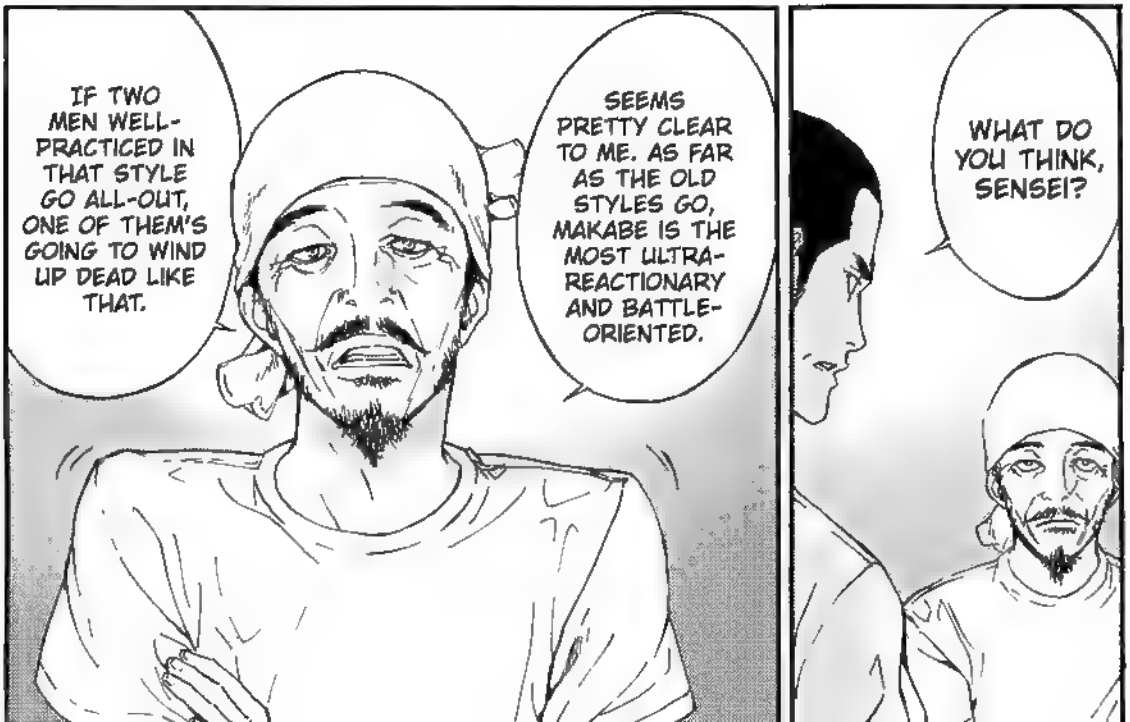
HE STRUCK KAZUSHI MAKABE, MASTER OF THE MAKABE ONE-SWORD STYLE...


...ON THE RIGHT TEMPLE WITH A WOODEN SWORD.

BUT THAT WAS AN ACCIDENT... RIGHT?

TWO DAYS LATER, MAKABE DIED.

I DON'T KNOW.
HIJIKATA REFUSED TO SAY A WORD AS THEY TOOK HIM INTO CUSTODY.
DID HE MEAN TO KILL OR NOT? WAS IT ACTUALLY MASTER MAKABE WHO PROPOSED THE NIGHTTIME TRAINING?
WITH HIS SILENCE, ALL THOSE DETAILS WENT UNSPOKEN.


IF TWO MEN WELL-PRACTICED IN THAT STYLE GO ALL-OUT, ONE OF THEM'S GOING TO WIND UP DEAD LIKE THAT.
SEEMS PRETTY CLEAR TO ME. AS FAR AS THE OLD STYLES GO, MAKABE IS THE MOST ULTRA-REACTIONARY AND BATTLE-ORIENTED.
WHAT DO YOU THINK, SENSEI?

LES-SON?
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
NOT QUITE... IT COULD HAVE BEEN HIS FINAL LESSON.
SO...
YOU THINK THEY MEANT TO KILL EACH OTHER?
COMBINE THOSE TWO THINGS ...
...AND YOU'RE LEFT WITH TWO FAIRLY CLEAR CHOICES:
SHOW HIM THE WAY OF TRUE COMBAT, OR FORCE HIM TO GIVE UP.
...
HMM... HOW SHOULD I PUT THIS?
YOU HAVE A MAN AGING RAPIDLY, LOSING HIS GRASP ON BODY AND TECHNIQUE...
...AND AT HIS SIDE, A FANATICAL, PROMISING STUDENT READY TO RISK HIS LIFE.

HOW HIJIKATA INTERPRETED ALL OF THAT, I COULDN'T SAY.
BUT AS FOR MAKABE...

...THE SALTY OLD BASTARD MIGHT HAVE BEEN HOPING FOR THAT FINALITY.

Ouch...
WELL, THAT DEFINITION DOESN'T COME FROM ONE MAN'S OPINIONS AND VALUES.
IF HE WANTED IT THAT WAY, THEN SO BE IT, I SAY.
WE LIVE IN A NATION OF LAWS! DO YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE IN THIS KIND OF ANARCHY !?
BUT WHEN YOU'RE BATTLING WITH WOODEN SWORDS, ONE SIMPLE MISTAKE WHEN CAUGHT OFF GUARD, AND YOU'LL DIE, SURE ENOUGH.
NEITHER OF THEM MEANT TO KILL.
TON (TAP)
TON
...
UM... MEAN-ING...?
EVERY TIME HE CAME TO ME FOR TRAINING, HE'D SPEND MOST OF THE DAY IN THE DOJO...
... THINKIN' OF NOTHIN' BUT SWORDS.

HOW BIG'S HIS FAMILY? HOW OLD IS HE?
YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS MINE.
IF WE SPOKE AT ALL, IT WAS NOTHIN' MORE THAN...
...A BIT OF DIALOGUE ABOUT STRIKING METHODS, OR FOOT PLACEMENT, AND SO ON.
PLUS, IT'S WORTH MY TIME, GETTIN' TO TRAIN SUCH AN INCREDIBLE TALENT IN PERSON.
...LOOKING BACK, I DON'T RECALL THE ANSWERS TO THOSE QUESTIONS, EITHER...

MY OTHER STUDENTS GAVE ME A SCOLDING FOR THAT ONE!
HA-HA...
I SHOWED HIM SOME SECRET SCROLLS THAT ARE NORMALLY FORBIDDEN TO LEND TO PUPILS OF OTHER STYLES.
BUT HIS GENIUS IS THE REAL THING!
WITHOUT THE SAME MINDSET AND SKILL LEVEL OF THE ONE WHO WROTE IT DOWN IN THE FIRST PLACE, YOU CAN'T HOPE TO UNLOCK ITS TRUE MEANING. FRANKLY SPEAKING...
THESE GREAT SECRETS AREN'T USUALLY THE KIND OF THING ONE JUST LOOKS AT AND THEN KNOWS.

...I ONLY UNDERSTAND ABOUT HALF OF IT MYSELF.
BUT HE GOT IT. HE SHOWED IT TO ME.
ISN'T THAT...
OUR SCHOOL'S CREATOR WROTE OF A SKILL IN WHICH THE BLADE IS PLACED WITHIN THE TRAJECTORY OF A MATCHLOCK PROJECTILE, SPLITTING IT IN TWO.
HE WAS ONCE WAYLAID BY A MAN WITH SUCH A GUN, SUCCESSFULLY CUT THE BULLET, AND SLEW THE ATTACKER.
...
AND WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT, THE KID DID THE SAME THING.

SO HOW DID A MAN LIKE HIM GET TO THIS POINT?
KNOWING HIM, I'D BET HE COULD DO THE SAME WITH THE SECRET ARTS OF ANY STYLE IN EXISTENCE.
HE MUST HAVE FOUND FAVOR AND SEETHING JEALOUSY IN EQUAL MEASURE, WHEREVER HE WENT.
EVERYONE WANTS THE CHANCE TO USE THE SKILLS THEY'VE HONED, WHETHER AMATEUR OR SEASONED VETERAN.
HE PUT TOO MUCH OF HIMSELF INTO THE BLADE!
BUT THERE'S NOT SO MUCH FREEDOM IN THE WORLD TODAY THAT YOU CAN DO THAT AND GET AWAY WITH IT.
不動
...I SEE...

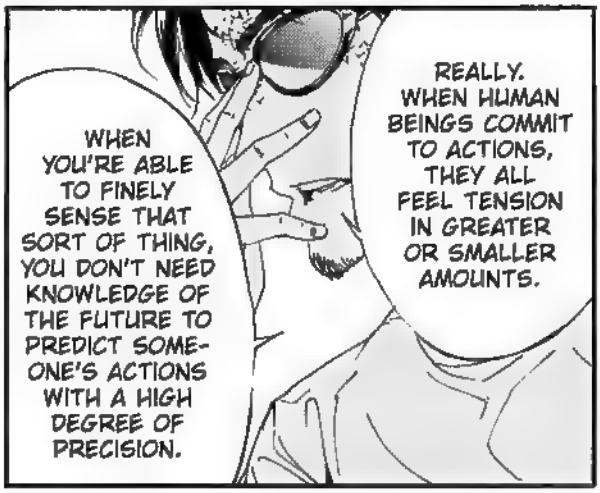
WELL, LET'S SEE...
...WHAT WOULD I DO?
WHAT WOULD YOU DO, IF YOU FOUND THAT YOUR GOD-GIVEN TALENT WAS WITH THE BLADE?
THIS IS THE ERA OF SCIENCE; THE SWORD IS A RELIC OF A BYGONE AGE.
YOU'RE SAYING HE WANTED TO TEST HIS SKILLS IN REAL COMBAT?
WHEN A MAN WANTS SOMETHING ENOUGH TO DRIVE HIM CRAZY, HE HAS TO ACT.
...BUT BY EXPOSING HIMSELF TO MORTAL DANGER...
AND NOT IN A HALF-ASSED WAY...

A DEMON ...
I'D SAY HIS INTENTIONS ARE TO MASTER THE SWORD AND FIND OUT IF IT STILL HOLDS UP IN MODERN COMBAT.
JUST MY OPINION, THOUGH.
...
HE'S A "DEMON OF THE BLADE," NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.

SO
(SNEAK)

ドキッ
DOKI
(BA-BUMP)
!?

I-I-I-I...
I JUST WANTED TO ASK HOW YOU KNOW...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
YOU'RE NOT TAKING A PAGE OUT OF IBUKI'S BOOK, ARE YOU?


WHEN YOU'RE ABLE TO FINELY SENSE THAT SORT OF THING, YOU DON'T NEED KNOWLEDGE OF THE FUTURE TO PREDICT SOMEONE'S ACTIONS WITH A HIGH DEGREE OF PRECISION.
REALLY. WHEN HUMAN BEINGS COMMIT TO ACTIONS, THEY ALL FEEL TENSION IN GREATER OR SMALLER AMOUNTS.

...I SEE...

DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH WHEN YOU ACT. IT SENDS OUT A PERFECT SIGNAL.
MY BREATH? REALLY?

WE JUST PROGRAM OURSELVES NOT TO FOCUS ON THEM NORMALLY.
NEVER UNDER-ESTIMATE THE HUMAN SENSES. WE WERE ONCE WILD APES, REMEMBER.
ALL KINDS OF INFORMATION IS HIDDEN IN EVERY SOUND AND SCENT.
WAS THAT WRITTEN ON ONE OF THOSE "SECRET SCROLLS"?
NO, IT'S BASIC KNOWL-EDGE.
I KNOW YOU'RE NOT THE KIND OF PERSON TO WILLFULLY HARM OTHERS.
JUST SO YOU KNOW...I TRUST YOU, MAMORU-SAN.
INABA-SENSEI TOLD ME ALL KINDS OF THINGS ABOUT YOU.

THE ONLY REASON MY TEACHER DIED IS BECAUSE HE HAD LESS TALENT THAN ME.
I DON'T FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENED.
DON'T EXPECT TOO MUCH FROM ME.
スッ
SU (RISE)
BECAUSE IT'S THE TRUTH.
WHY DO YOU GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO SOUND CRUEL LIKE THAT!?

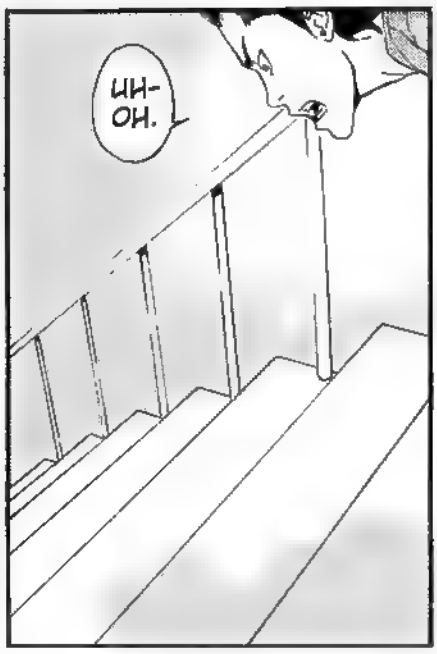
パタン
PATAN (THUMP)
I DON'T BELIEVE A SINGLE WORD OF THAT SILLY EXCUSE !!
...
AND WHAT DID YOU DO AFTER THAT?
TELL ME...

GU (SHH)
THAT OLD MAN WILL TELL HER ANYTHING...
GUO (WHOOSH)
...GOTCHA!

ヒョイ
HYOI (SWISH)
スカ
SUKA (WHIFF)

GOD-DAMMIT !!
WHA— !?

DO (THUD)
DO
DO
DO
DO
ドドドドドド
DA-DA-DA-DA!!


UH-OH.

?
SHIT!!
YOU HAVEN'T LEARNED A BIT.
THIS IS PAINFULLY OBVIOUS, MAN.
TELL HIM, NOT ME.
ANY-WAY...
WHAT THE HELL, GUYS ...
IF YOU HAVE TO FIGHT, TAKE IT OUTSIDE!

GET MY SWORD AND EQUIPMENT SET UP. WE'RE GONNA GIVE 'EM A TEST TONIGHT.

HOW'S HE GONNA RESPOND TO THE CAPTAIN'S INSANE CHALLENGE ?
NOW THIS I GOTTA SEE.

HUH !?

Until
Death
do us
Part

AAAGH!
DOGA (SLAM)
ZA (MARCH)
AAAH!
WHAT THE FUCK !?
IS THIS A RAID!?

SAY WHAT !?
I WANT TO KNOW THE WHERE-ABOUTS OF KOMURA, YOUR BOSS.
IF YOU DON'T GIVE ME AN ANSWER, YOU'RE IN FOR A WORLD OF HURT.
SHUT THE FUCK UP!!
...

chapter 20

KACHI
(CLICK)
カチッ
...
TSK
...
...NO
LEADS...

THAT'S THE SIXTH ONE ALREADY ...
I DON'T HAVE THE USUAL NETWORK SUPPORT ON THIS ONE...
...SO IF YOU'VE GOT ANY BETTER IDEAS, I'M ALL EARS.
...
I DON'T THINK YOU'RE GOING TO FIND ANY CLUES BY RANDOMLY ATTACKING THEIR SPOTS.

TA
(TEK)
タ TA タッ

I'M THINK-ING WE SHOULD GO THIS WAY.

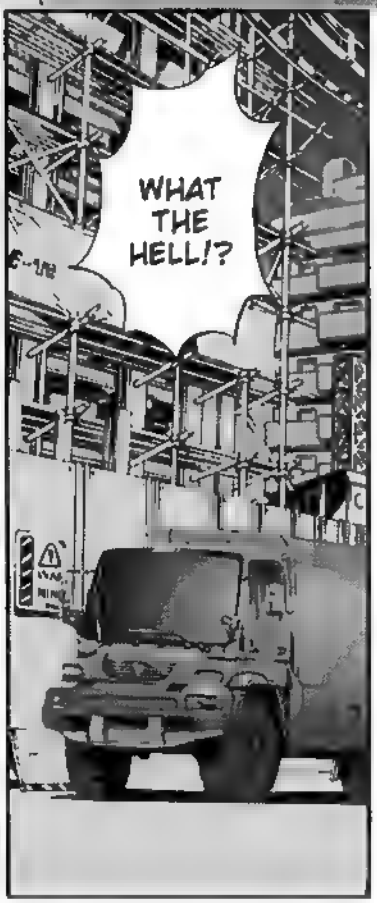
IS SHE ON ANOTHER HUNCH?

AFTER THAT...

Paskal
IGAWA-SAN CAN'T HELP US, SINCE HE HAS TO SUPPORT IBUKI-SAN, AND I CAN'T REACH SIERRA-SAN.

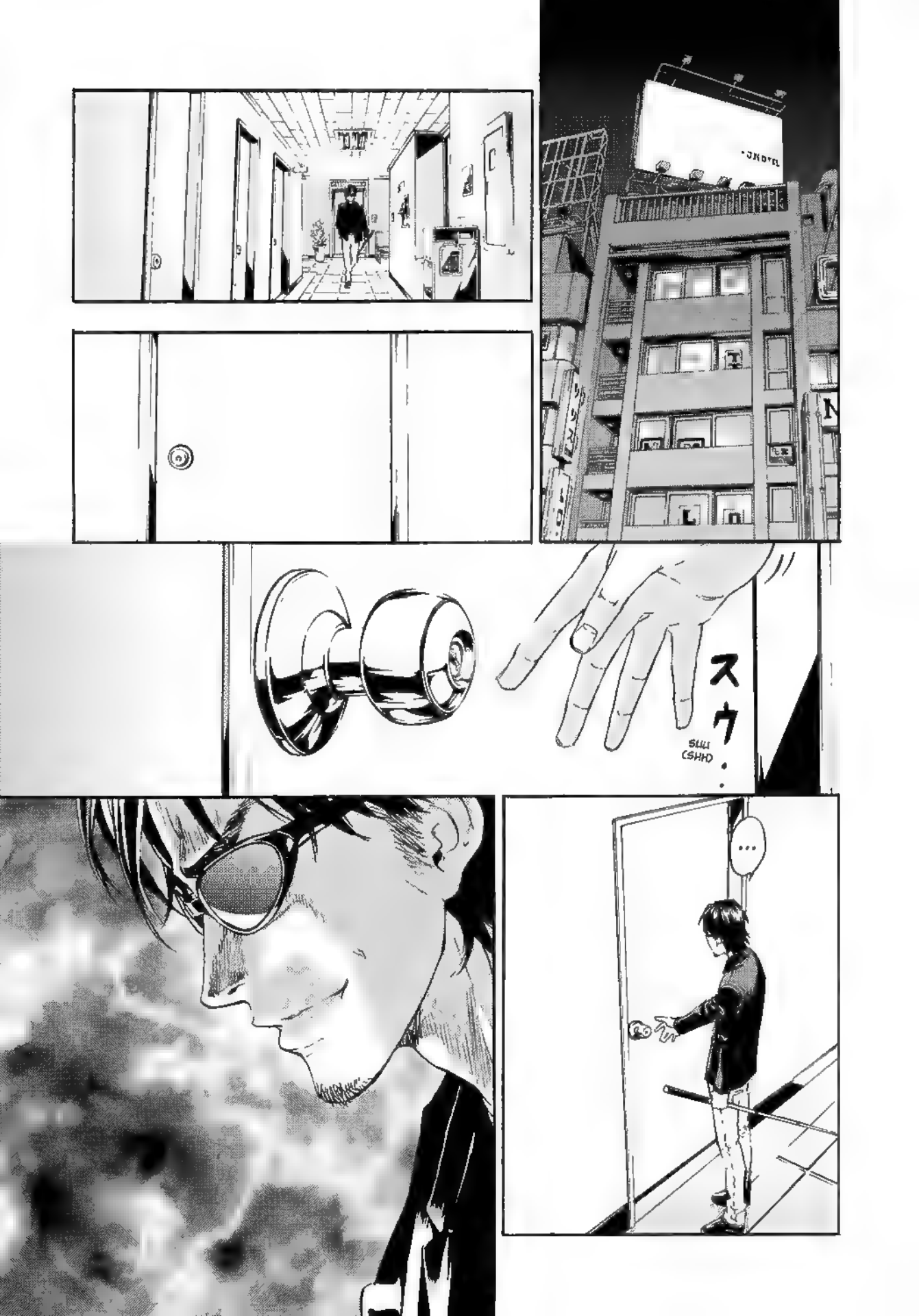
ULTI-
MATELY...
...WE MIGHT HAVE TO ASK THAT LONE SUPERVISOR PERSON...

...AND ALL HE CAN DO IS BRUTE FORCE HIS WAY THROUGH THE PROBLEM ?
HE TALKS A BIG GAME...


WHAT THE HELL!?

WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ON A SEPARATE MISSION, AND YOU'RE MAKING DETOURS TO CHECK UP ON HIM?

...SOMETHING TELLS ME THERE'S MORE TO IT THAN THAT...
WHY ARE YOU SO IRRITATED?
OH, SHUT UP!
I JUST WANNA SEE HIM WRITHING IN MISERABLE DEFEAT!!
I'M NOT. I'M HAVING THE TIME OF MY LIFE.
...DOESN'T SEEM THAT WAY TO ME...
FINE, FINE.
WE'RE JUST STOPPING BY FOR A SECOND!
...
GO ON, LET'S GET TO THE NEXT CRIME SCENE.


スウ
SUU
(SHH)
...

...
キン
KIN
(SLICE)
ン
BAN.
(BIWAM)

ダン
DAN (STOMP)
BA
BA (WHOOSH)
DON (BLAM)
GUSHA (SMUSH)
ドン
DON
DOGA (THWAM)

BARA (CRUMBLE)
KA (TOK)
KIKIN (KCHING)
LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR ME.
HE... HE'S A MONSTER ...
OUTTA MY WAY, VERMIN.
BUN (WHOOSH)

I JUST SET UP HERE WHEN I HEARD YOU WERE TERRORIZING THE AREA.
NO, NO.
NOT THAT LONG, HONESTLY.
SENJI-SAN!?
STAY BACK, DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME. YOUR GUNS ARE WORTHLESS ON HIM.
SURA (SLIDE)
OLD-FASHIONED THOUGH IT MIGHT BE, THE SWORD IS MUCH BETTER.

HOW RARE TO FIND SOMEONE WHO ACTUALLY UNDERSTANDS.
NOW STEP BACK.
OOPS! FORGOT TO MENTION, EVEN IF THE LIKES OF YOU HAD SWORDS, YOU'D STILL BE NOTHING BUT FODDER TO HIM.
SENJI, YOU SAID YOUR NAME WAS?
THAT GOES BOTH WAYS, SAMURAI-SAN.
LET'S BEGIN.

GYA (GRSHK)
KIN (CLANG)
KIN
KIKIN (KA-KLING)

ドガッ
-DOGA (KICK)
ダダッ
-DATA (DASH)
ヒュン
-HYUN (SWISH)
ヒュン
-HYUN

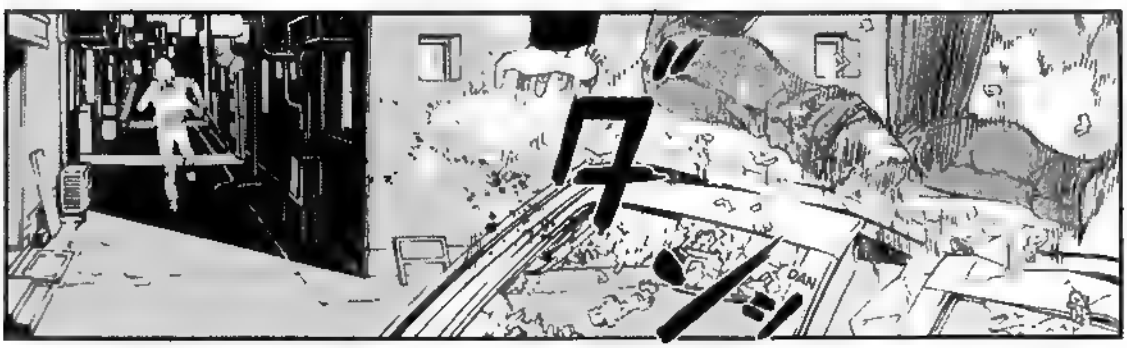
DOGA (THUD)
DO (WHOMP)
KIN (CLANG)
DOSU (THUNK)

GU
(HRRRG)
GU
BA
(HOP)
WHAT?
AS A MATTER OF FACT ...
...I'VE GOT A SPECIAL DEAL FOR YOU, PAL.
GASHA
(CRASH)

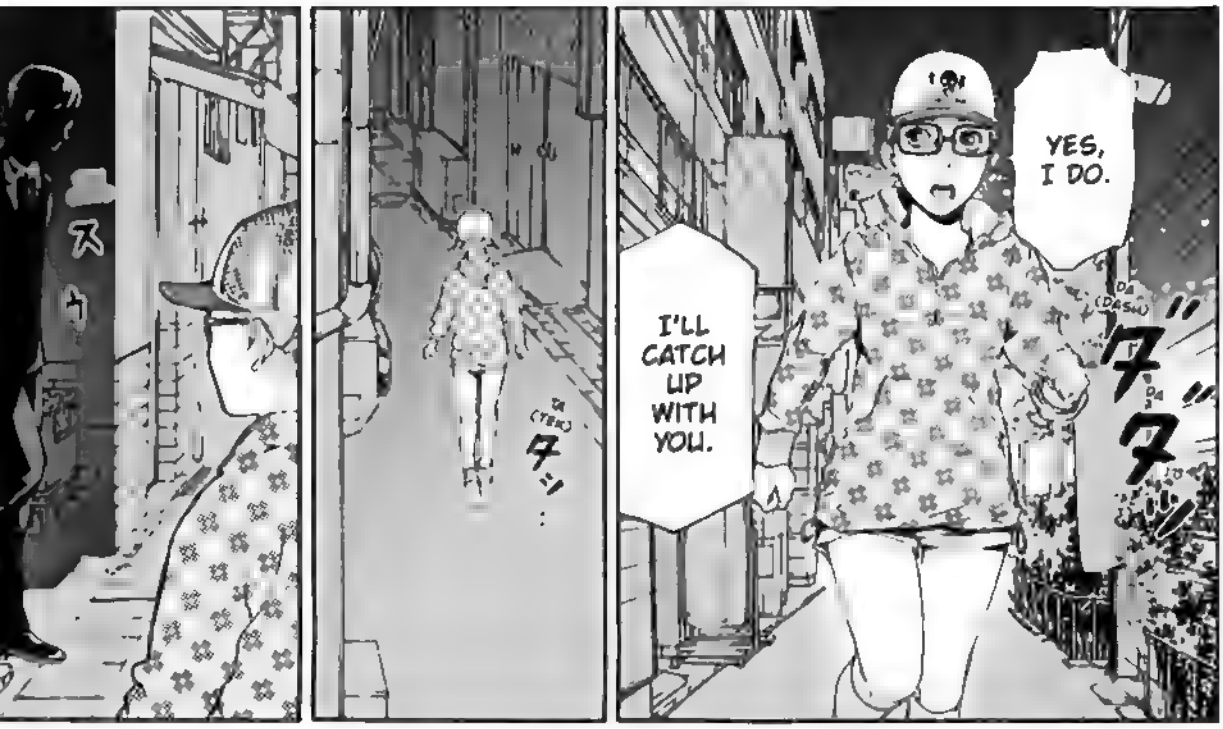
JUST TRY TO KEEP UP.

DAN (WHOMP)

WAIT!

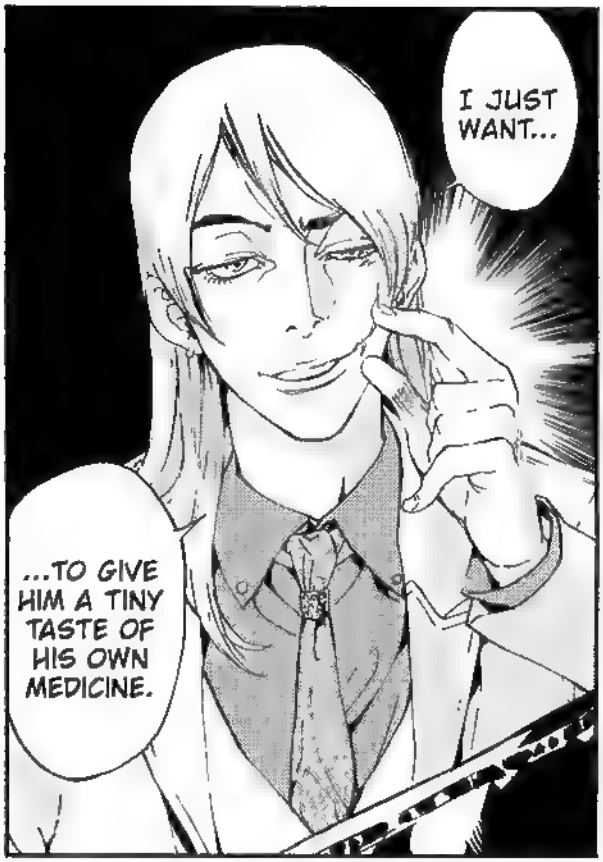

DAN

HARUKA, YOU KNOW WHERE HE'S GOING!?

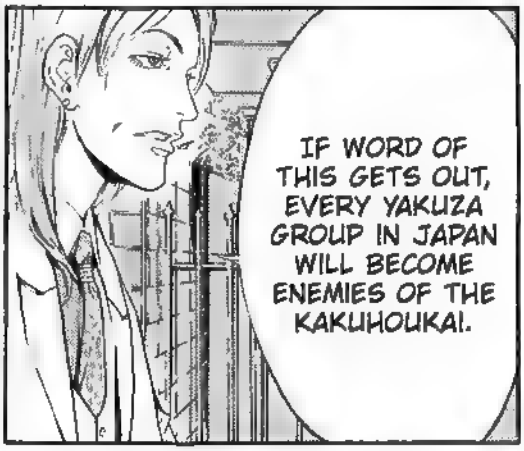

スウ
(YES)
タシ
I'LL CATCH UP WITH YOU.
YES, I DO.
(DASU)
ダ
ダ

...AREN'T YOU...?
PARDON ME.

ワレ
シャリ
SORRY ABOUT THE HIKE.
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE WILLING TO LEND A HAND.
YES. OUR YOUNG LEADER'S PRANKS ARE GETTING OUT OF HAND THESE DAYS.
I'M GUESSING YOU WANT TO KEEP THIS A SECRET FROM YOUR


I JUST WANT...
...TO GIVE HIM A TINY TASTE OF HIS OWN MEDICINE.

WHAT, ARE YOU IN A ROGUE FACTION OR SOMETHING?
YOU MAKE IT SOUND SO OFFICIAL.


IF WORD OF THIS GETS OUT, EVERY YAKUZA GROUP IN JAPAN WILL BECOME ENEMIES OF THE KAKUHOUKAI.

HEH-HEH.
WELL, HOW ABOUT THAT? GET OUT THERE, AND YOU MIGHT JUST HIT PAYDIRT.

...
IT'S THE SAME DAMN THING.

DID YOU KNOW THAT I'D BE COMING THANKS TO YOUR FORE-SIGHT?
AND YET, COMMON MANNERS DICTATE THAT I SHOULD INTRODUCE MYSELF.
I'M INVOLVED IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE ELEMENT NETWORK.
MY NAME IS TATSUMI DAIBA.
...TATSUMI DAIBA-SAN...

SURA
(SLIDE)

Until
Death
do us
Part

IT'S DANGEROUS OUT THERE. YOU COULD AT LEAST SPEND THE NIGHT.

GOODBYE, SIR.

THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HELP.
NO, WE'VE GOT TO GET BACK.
...

CHIRIN
CHIRIN
CHIRIRIN (JINGLE)
ガサッ
YOU WORRIED? BEARS RARELY COME UP TO INTERACT WITH HUMANS.
THEY'RE JUST AS AFRAID OF US, REMEMBER.
Y-YOU THINK... MAYBE WE SHOULD HAVE TAKEN HIM UP ON THE OFFER?

...
OH, WOULD YOU KNOCK IT OFF?
WHOA!
I JUST SAW A BIG SHAD-OW...
AND I THINK I HEAR GROWL-ING!
AHH?
HAA (HUFF)
LOTTA VISITORS TODAY.
ジャリ
JARI (SCRAPE)

I'D LIKE TO JOIN YOUR DOJO.
WELL, WELL

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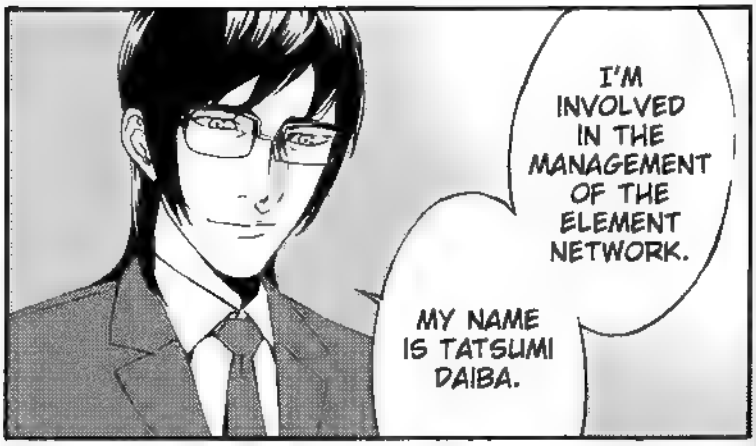
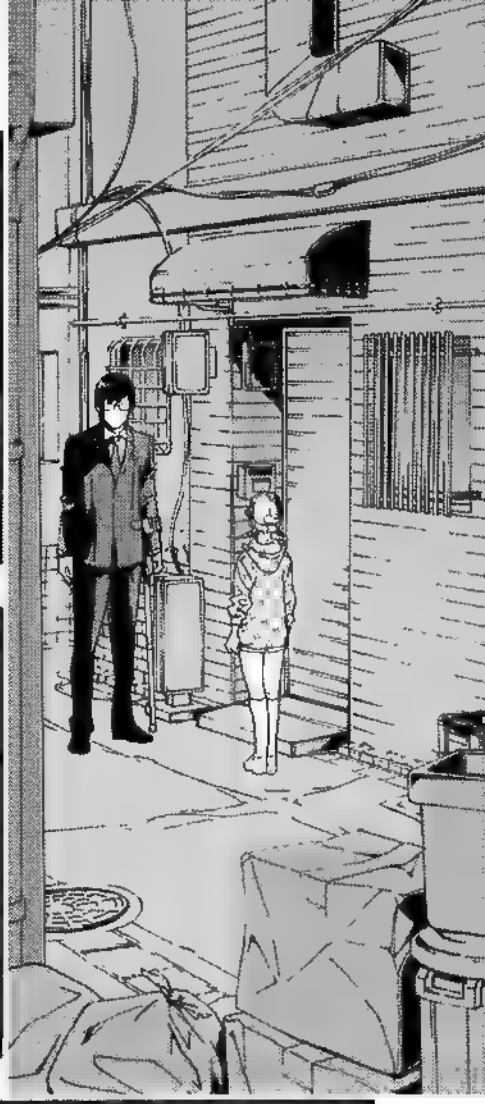

I'M INVOLVED IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE ELEMENT NETWORK.
MY NAME IS TATSUMI DAIBA.



I HAVE A SPECIAL MATTER TO DISCUSS WITH YOU ALONE.

I WANT TO CONFIRM YOUR OWN WILL AS IT RELATES...
...TO YOUR CONTINUED INVOLVEMENT WITH MAMORU HIJIKATA.

IT REGARDS YOUR STATUS GOING FORWARD.
...

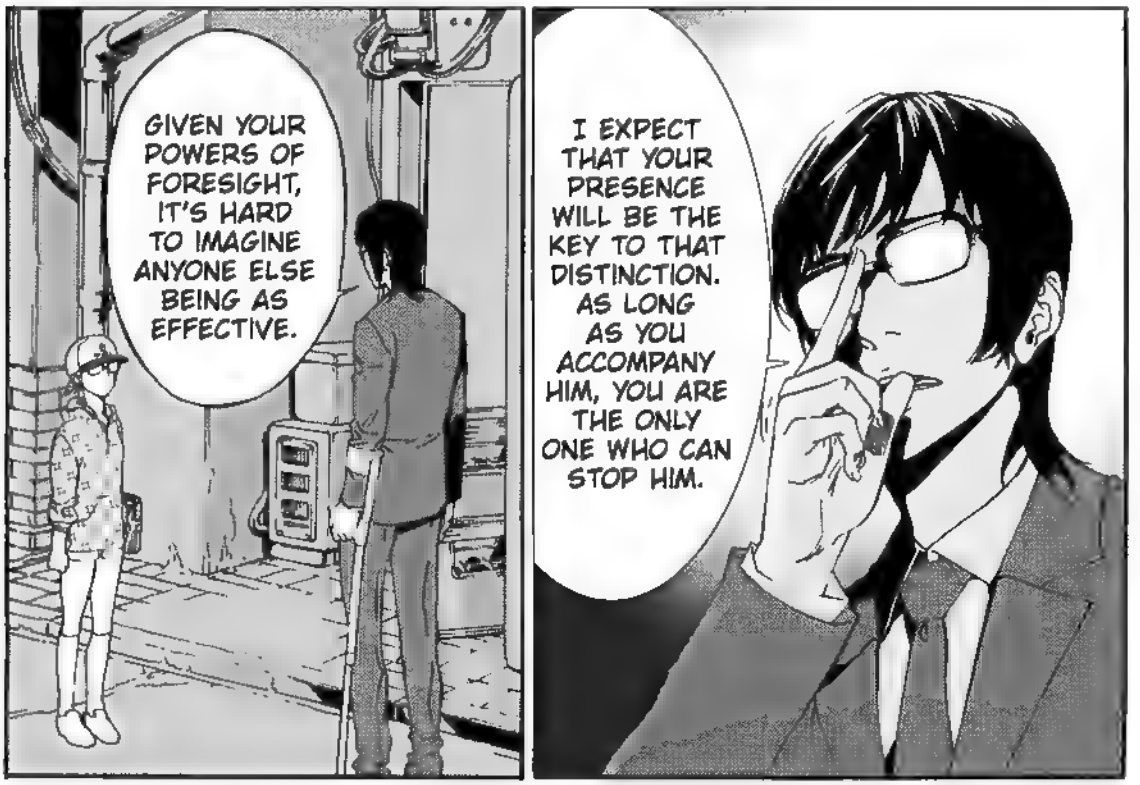
THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT. I WANT YOU TO CONSIDER YOUR ANSWER CAREFULLY.
... OKAY ...

BUT...
I CAN'T STOP MAMORU-SAN...

HIS ACTIONS ARE ROOTED IN HIS SELF-CREATED RULES AND PURPOSES.

I WANT YOU TO SERVE AS A BALANCE AGAINST MAMORU HIJIKATA'S RAMPAGING NATURE.

AS LONG AS THEY ALIGN WITH THE IDEALS OF THE ELEMENT NETWORK, HE IS A POWERFUL ALLY.
BUT IF, AS THE LAST TIME, HIS GOALS DIFFER FROM OURS
—
—.HE WILL BECOME A TERRIBLE FOE.


GIVEN YOUR POWERS OF FORESIGHT, IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE ANYONE ELSE BEING AS EFFECTIVE.
I EXPECT THAT YOUR PRESENCE WILL BE THE KEY TO THAT DISTINCTION. AS LONG AS YOU ACCOMPANY HIM, YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN STOP HIM.

razkal
...YOU CAN'T ...
IF YOU THINK THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE AND CANNOT STOP HIM...
...WE WILL BE FORCED TO SEIZE HIM AND TURN HIM OVER TO THE POLICE.

BOTH CHOICES ARE EQUALLY VALID TO ME.
WHAT WILL YOU DO?

IF HE STAYS UNDER MY CONTROL, I CAN LIKELY PROTECT HIM.
PERSONALLY, I THINK THE MURDERS HE COMMITTED LAST TIME WERE LARGELY OUT OF HIS CONTROL.
BUT IF HIS SELF-CENTERED ACTIONS CONTINUE, IT WILL AFFECT THE INTERNAL TRUST WITHIN THE NET-WORK.
BY EXTENSION, I CAN ALSO GUARANTEE YOUR SAFETY FROM THE CRIMINALS WHO SEEK TO HURT YOU.
CONSIDER THIS CARE-FULLY.
WHETHER MAMORU HIJIKATA LIVES OR DIES IS ENTIRELY IN YOUR HANDS.

I...
...

...I UNDER-STAND...
I'LL GIVE IT A TRY.

IF YOU SHOULD SUCCEED, I WON'T HAVE TO LOSE AN EXCELLENT WEAPON.
THAT'S ASSUMING HE CAN PULL OFF HIS CURRENT MISSION, OF COURSE...
...
THANK YOU.
NIKO (SMILE)
I-I'M ON MY WAY!
Come and meet up already!
EEK!
What are you doing!?

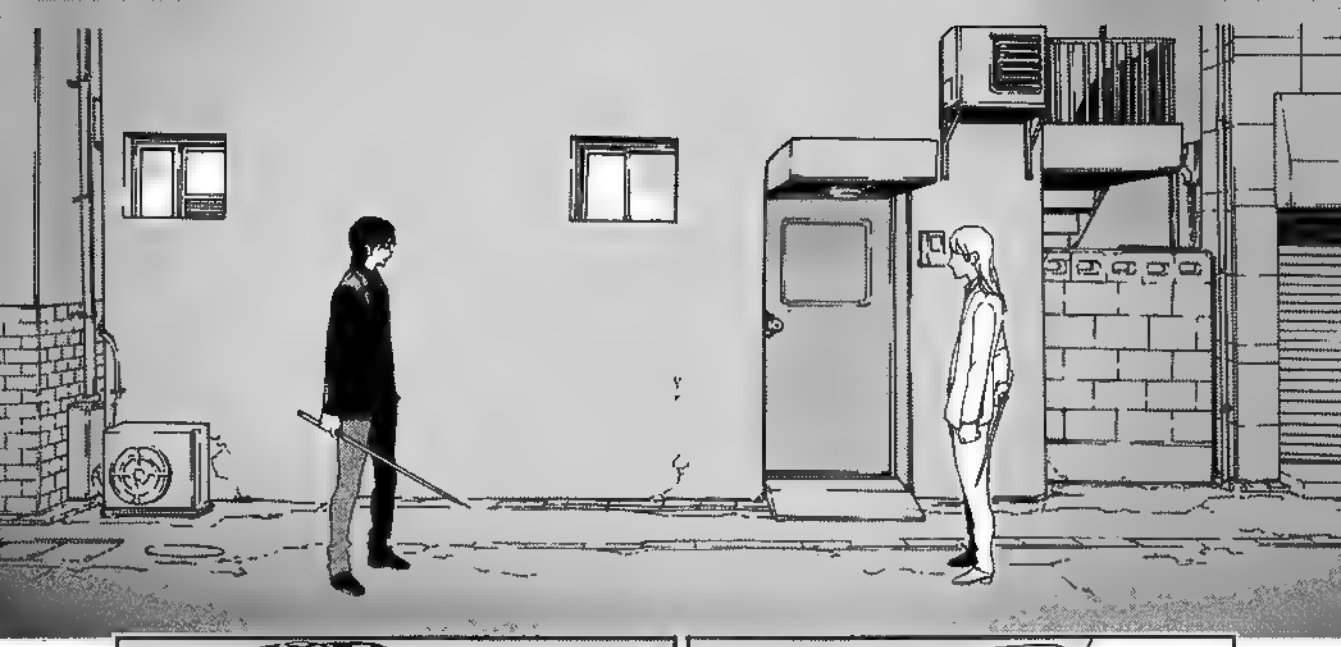
YOU'LL KEEP THIS BETWEEN US, I TRUST.
スウ
タタッ
...WHAT SHOULD I DO...?

PYRO.
I'LL NEED YOU TO PROVIDE CLANDESTINE SUPPORT TO THE GIRL.
...
IF YOU DON'T LEAVE PLENTY OF SPACE BETWEEN YOU, SHE'LL SPOT YOU IN NO TIME.
POTO (PLOP)
ポト

SHE'S LIKELY TO BECOME THE KEY TO THE ENTIRE NETWORK SOON.

Yes, master.
BUT I'M HESITANT TO PLACE SUCH A HUGE BURDEN ON A CHILD.

...THEN SHE'LL NEED TO BLAZE HER PATH ON HER OWN.
BUT IF THAT'S GOING TO BE HER FATE EITHER WAY...



I'LL HEAR YOU OUT UNTIL MY COMPANION SHOWS UP.

THE NAME'S SENJI TAMA-GAWA.
JUST A MAN OF THE UNDERWORLD. I'VE BEEN IN WITH THE KAKUHOUKAI FOR YEARS.

WELL, I WANT YOU TO STOP THE YOUNG LEADER'S MAD RAMPAGE.

THERE'S AN UNWRITTEN RULE THAT YAKUZA DON'T USE FIREARMS, BECAUSE IT ENCOURAGES NEEDLESS KILLING.
IF KNOWLEDGE OF HIS ACTIONS BECOMES WIDESPREAD, HE COULD BE BANISHED. MY SUSPICION...
THE KAKUHOUKAI IS A MEMBER OF THE KINDAIGUMI SYNDICATE, BUT THE YOUNG LEADER TEAMS UP WITH FOREIGNERS ...
...AND PERSONALLY SMUGGLES HIS OWN WEAPONS IN TO EXPAND HIS REACH.
AND HE'LL PICK UP THE SCRAPS WHEN THEY'RE DOWN?
...IS THAT HE SEEKS TO EMBROIL THE KINDAIGUMI WITH ITS RIVAL, THE HIYAMADAKAI...
...SO YOU'VE FIGURED IT OUT ...

...
SO INSTEAD, HE GETS REAL CRAFTY, HIRING OUTSIDERS ANONYMOUSLY, HIDING HIS TRACKS WHEREVER HE CAN.
ONE LITTLE PIECE OF THE PUZZLE CAN'T HOLD HIS OWN AGAINST THE WEIGHT OF AN ENTIRE ORGANIZATION.
EVEN A CHILD COULD SNIFF OUT THAT KIND OF RUSE.
AND IF THEY FIND OUT WHO'S BEHIND IT, THE KAKUHOUKAI WILL GET WIPED OFF THE MAP.
THAT'S RIGHT. THIS IS A WILD GAMBLE, A MOVE THAT COULD EASILY PLUNGE ALL OF JAPAN'S YAKUZA INTO OUTRIGHT WAR.
THAT'S WHAT I'M HOPING YOU CAN PREVENT.
AMATEURS WILL WIND UP HURT.

HOW VERY CONVENIENT FOR YOU.
HEH-HEH. WHAT DO YOU SAY? FEEL LIKE GETTING INVOLVED?
IT'S BEYOND MY ABILITY TO HANDLE ALONE.
THAT'S WHY I WAS HOPING TO MAKE CONTACT WITH YOU, GIVEN YOUR LONG-STANDING COMPETITION WITH HIM.
ACTUALLY, IT SUITS MY PURPOSES TO HAVE YOU GUYS OUT OF THE PICTURE ENTIRELY.
OH, COME ON!
...WHAT KINDA STONES DOES THIS GUY HAVE, ASKING ME THIS ...?

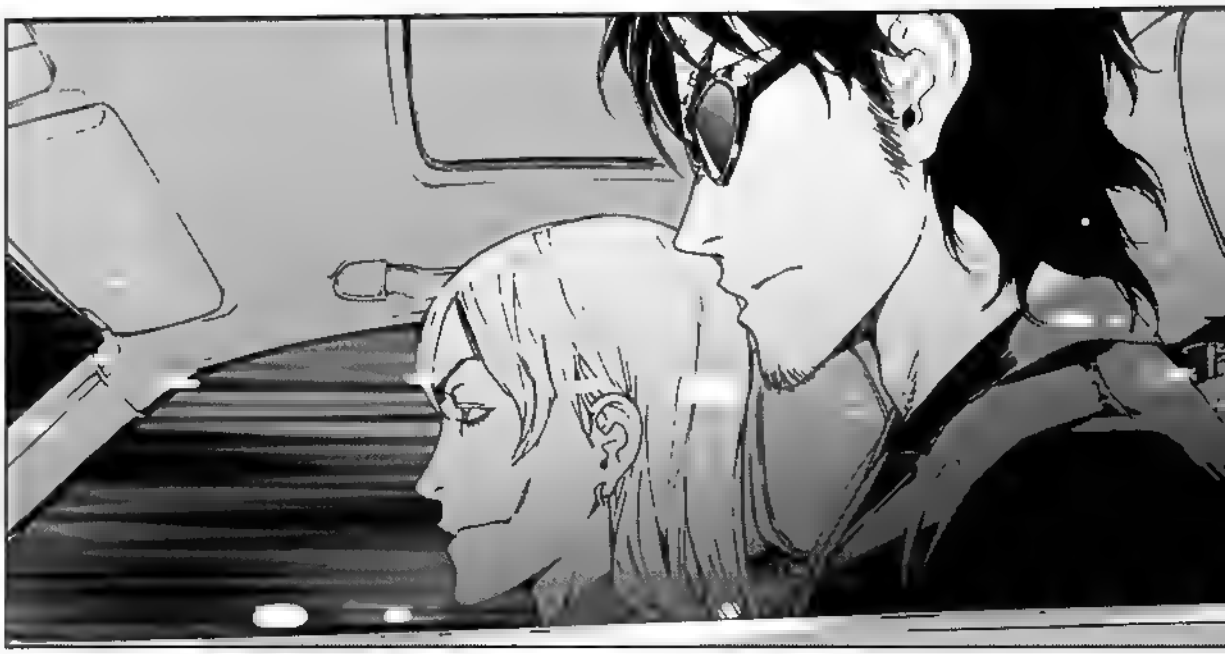
...
TELL ME WHERE KOMURA AND HIS FOREIGNERS ARE HIDING OUT.
ALL RIGHT...IF I CRUSH YOUR LEADER, THAT ACCOMPLISHES WHAT I NEED TOO.
ガヤヤ
スッ!
SUU (SHH)

WHAT'S UP WITH YOU?
N-NOTHING.
...
HAA (HUFF)
HAA
...
ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO TRUST HIM?
Raskal

...I DON'T CARE IF IT'S A TRAP.
I'LL USE ANYTHING I CAN GET MY HANDS ON. PLUS...
I DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER CLUES AT THE MOMENT.
?
Raskal
NOT AGAIN...
I JUST NEED TO DO MY JOB PROPERLY ...
...WELL, I KNEW WHAT I WAS GETTING INTO...

...OR ELSE EVERYONE'S GOING TO TURN ON MAMORU-SAN!
...
GET IN.
Raskal
Raskal
...
コク
KOKU (NOD)

I'LL DRIVE YOU THERE NOW.
ブオオオオ
BLOOOL (VROOM)
GACHA (CLICK)
ガチャ



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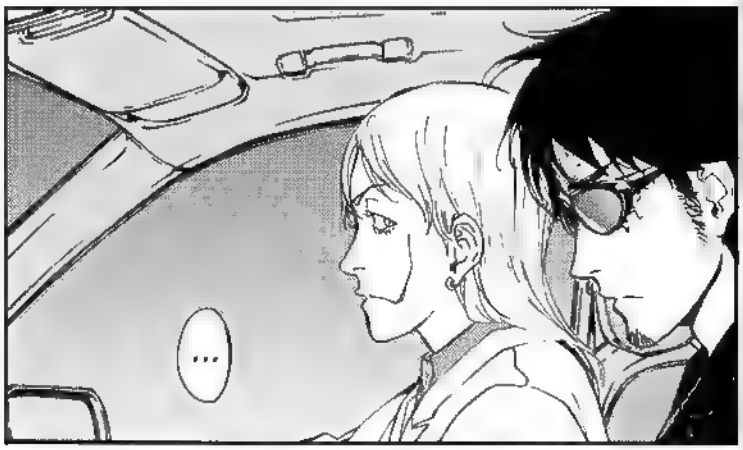

...

ブオオオ
BRRRR!

SEEMS LIKE YOU WANT TO SAY SOMETHING.

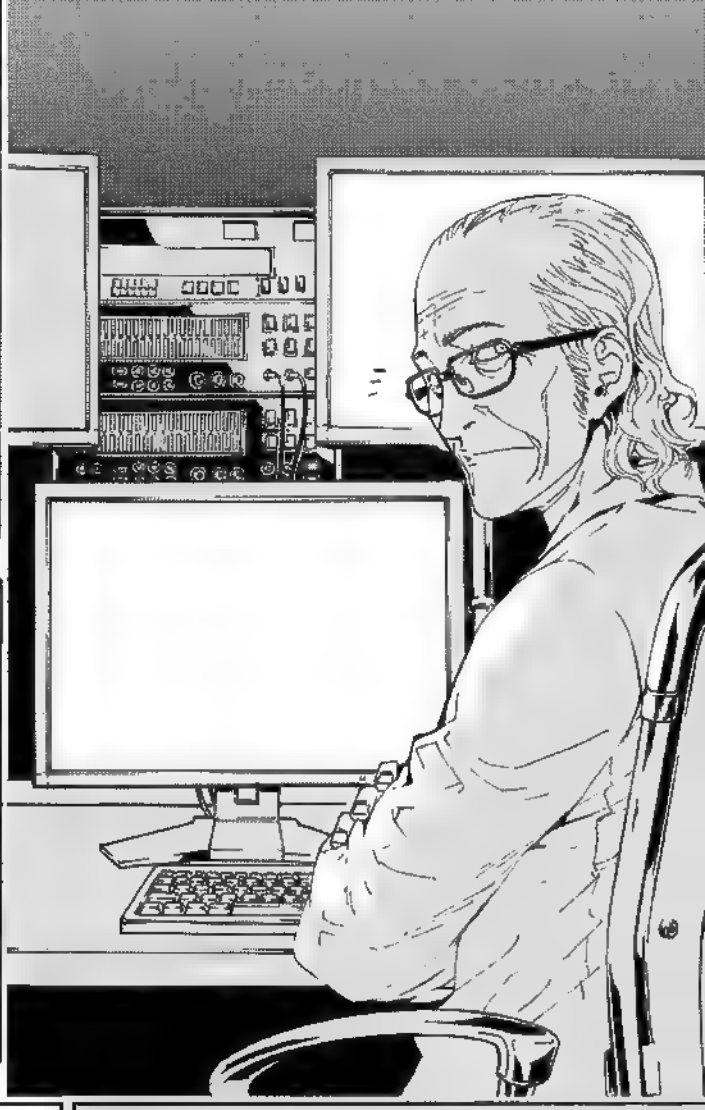
ARE YOU SURE WE SHOULD BE ESCORTING THIS LITTLE GIRL AROUND?
I MEAN, I UNDERSTAND THAT SHE'S BEING CHASED AS WELL, BUT...

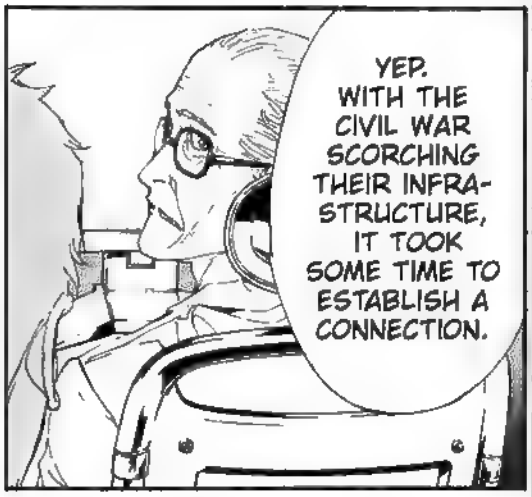
IT'S WHAT SHE WANTS.
LET HER DO HER THING.
BESIDES, HER BEING HERE HELPS DRAW ALL KINDS OF ENEMIES INTO MY RANGE.
SHE'S A USEFUL TOOL TO HAVE.
SEEMS LIKE FATE BROUGHT YOU TOGETHER ...
...

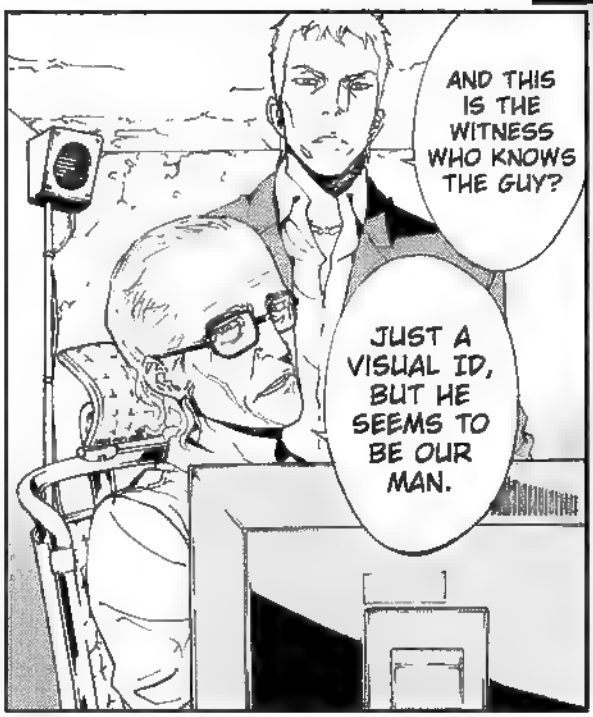
IT'LL BE A WHILE. WE HAVE TO LEAVE THE CITY.
SENJI, RIGHT? HOW FAR'S THE HIDE-OUT?
Z Z Z
ALL RIGHT...
バタ
BATA (KTHUNK)
...
...OH, HONESTLY ...

KO (TOKU)
コ
KO
コ
KO
コ
キ"
GIII (CREAK)
イ
イ
イ

DID YOU MAKE CONTACT ?



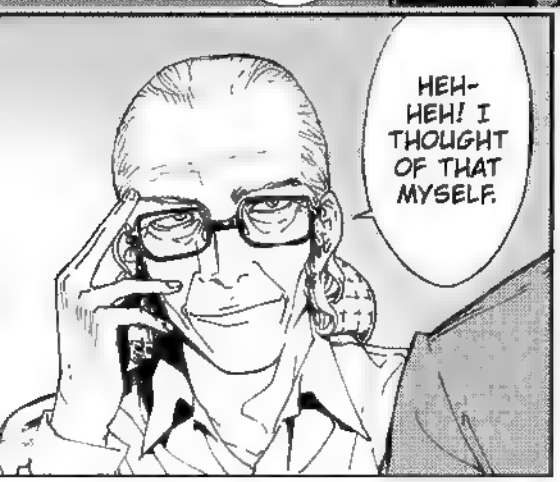

YEP. WITH THE CIVIL WAR SCORCHING THEIR INFRA-STRUCTURE, IT TOOK SOME TIME TO ESTABLISH A CONNECTION.


AND THIS IS THE WITNESS WHO KNOWS THE GUY?
JUST A VISUAL ID, BUT HE SEEMS TO BE OUR MAN.

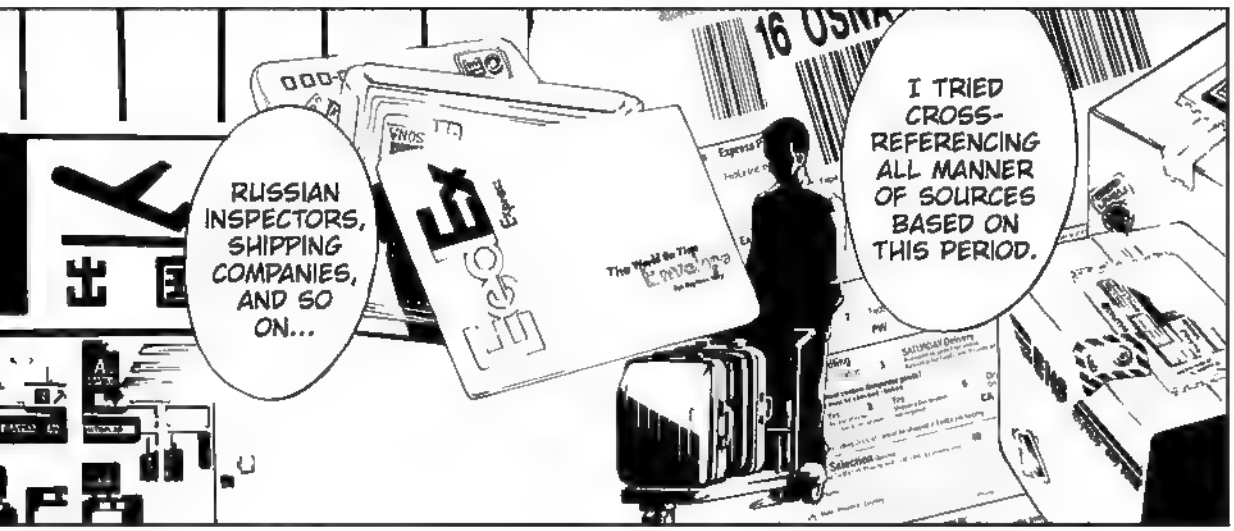
PI (BEEP)
Good-bye, then...
THAT'S ALL. I'VE LEARNED WHAT I WANTED TO KNOW.
WHERE THE SEPARAT-ISTS ARE FIGHTING?
CHECHNYA, IN RUSSIA.
WHERE WERE THEY?
WHEN ORDER HAS BROKEN DOWN, ROVING BANDS OF FIGHTERS AND GUERRILLA TROOPS FREQUENTLY RAID AND PLUNDER WHEREVER THEY CAN.

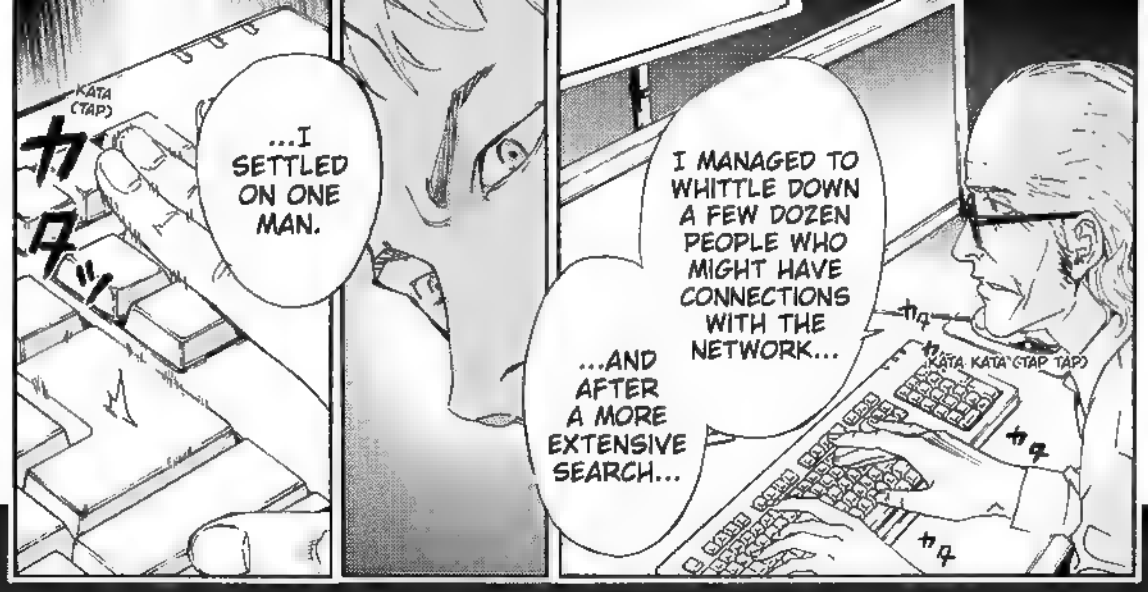
WHAT WAS HE DOING THERE?
IT WAS AMIDST THAT ENVIRON-MENT THAT OUR SAMURAI APPEARED AND WIPED OUT AN ENTIRE TROOP OF PILLAGERS.
AND HOW!?
...
AND THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE THAT IN JAPAN.
IT'S MY BELIEF THAT THE SAMURAI NEEDED A PROPER PLACE TO PUT THE SKILLS HE'D DEVELOPED TO PRACTICAL USE.

SO HE SIMPLY LOOKED ELSE-WHERE FOR BATTLE.
IT HAD TO BE A PLACE WHERE WAR WAS STILL ONGOING ...
...AND REMOTE ENOUGH THAT INFORMATION WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY.


HEH-HEH! I THOUGHT OF THAT MYSELF.

I SEE...
BUT WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO MAKE HIS WAY THERE ALL ALONE, KATANA IN TOW?

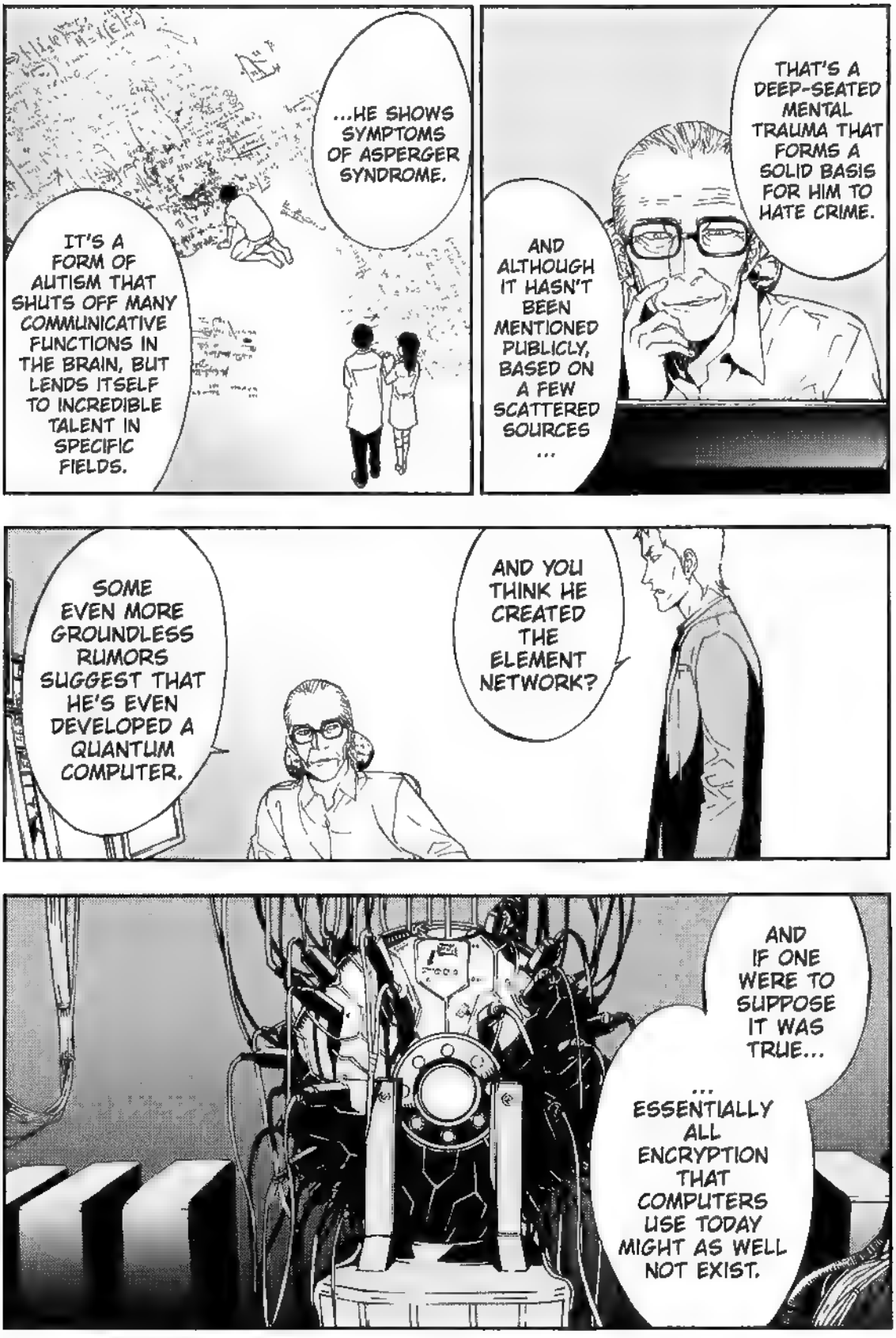

RUSSIAN INSPECTORS, SHIPPING COMPANIES, AND SO ON...
I TRIED CROSS-REFERENCING ALL MANNER OF SOURCES BASED ON THIS PERIOD.


KATA (TAP)
カタッ
...I SETTLED ON ONE MAN.
I MANAGED TO WHITTLE DOWN A FEW DOZEN PEOPLE WHO MIGHT HAVE CONNECTIONS WITH THE NETWORK...
...AND AFTER A MORE EXTENSIVE SEARCH...
KATA KATA (TAP TAP)

DON'T MESS WITH
Daiba tatsumi
TIME
Who is MASTER of cyber WORLD
MENTOR

THE CREATOR OF THE MASSIVE SEARCH ENGINE "MENTOR."
AN INTER-NATIONAL VIP.
WHO'S THAT?
TATSUMI DAIBA...
...
...TATSUMI DAIBA...
BUT IN RECENT YEARS, HE'S MADE BLACK MARKET CONNECTIONS. NASTY RUMORS SWIRL ABOUT HIM.
HE CREATED MENTOR IN HIS TEENS AND WAS HAILED AS A GENIUS.
THIS ACHIEVEMENT EARNED HIM A MASSIVE FORTUNE.
MENTOR

THE REASON I SINGLED HIM OUT AMONG ALL THE OTHER POSSIBLE TARGETS IS THE PRESENCE OF CERTAIN OTHER FACTORS IN HIS BACKGROUND.
THOSE AREN'T RUMORS! THE HEAD OF THE KINDAI'S PROBABLY BUDDY-BUDDY WITH THIS GUY.
ARE YOU SAYING HE'S THE ONE BEHIND THIS ELEMENT NETWORK THING? THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
!?
WHICH MAKES HIM THE SON OF A KILLER AND THE SON OF A VICTIM.
FOR ONE, HE SAW HIS FATHER MURDER HIS MOTHER FIRSTHAND.


...HE SHOWS SYMPTOMS OF ASPERGER SYNDROME.
IT'S A FORM OF AUTISM THAT SHUTS OFF MANY COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTIONS IN THE BRAIN, BUT LENDS ITSELF TO INCREDIBLE TALENT IN SPECIFIC FIELDS.
THAT'S A DEEP-SEATED MENTAL TRAUMA THAT FORMS A SOLID BASIS FOR HIM TO HATE CRIME.
AND ALTHOUGH IT HASN'T BEEN MENTIONED PUBLICLY, BASED ON A FEW SCATTERED SOURCES ...
AND YOU THINK HE CREATED THE ELEMENT NETWORK?
SOME EVEN MORE GROUNDLESS RUMORS SUGGEST THAT HE'S EVEN DEVELOPED A QUANTUM COMPUTER.
AND IF ONE WERE TO SUPPOSE IT WAS TRUE...
... ESSENTIALLY ALL ENCRYPTION THAT COMPUTERS USE TODAY MIGHT AS WELL NOT EXIST.

THIS WOULD EXPLAIN WHY THE EXISTENCE OF THE ELEMENT NETWORK HAS BEEN KEPT UNDER WRAPS UNTIL NOW.
IT COULD DELVE ANYWHERE AND PULL OUT CRUCIAL SECRETS.
YES. THE TOUGHEST ONE COULD HOPE FOR.
THEY'RE WELL-FUNDED AND IN CONTROL OF THE INFORMATION NETWORKS. QUITE AN IMPOSING ENEMY...
IF IT CONNECTS TO THEIR NETWORKS, EVEN STATE SECRETS WOULD BE EASY PREY.
SAME TO YOU, PROFESSOR.
AND YET... YOU SEEM ALMOST EXCITED ABOUT THIS.

WE'VE GOT TO PREPARE A PLAN FOR THE MOST POWERFUL ENEMY WE CAN IMAGINE
ズ
ズ
Master, such extreme exercise will adversely affect your injury.
I recommend that you make use of public transport.

Master, based on your foot speed, I calculate that returning home will require three hours and twenty-two minutes.
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG... WITH A LITTLE HIKE EVERY NOW AND THEN.
ZU (DRAG)
ズ"
ZU
ズ"
...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT.
Yes, Master.

CAN'T BELIEVE HE'D JUST SLEEP NEXT TO ME...
PIKL (TWITCH)

HE REACTED WITHOUT EVEN WAKING?
WHAT A MONSTER ...
AAAH !?
WERE YOU GETTING SOME NAUGHTY IDEAS?
N-NO, I SWEAR!

JUST A LITTLE PRANK! SINCE HE'S BOLD ENOUGH TO SLEEP RIGHT NEXT TO ME.
I KNEW IT.
...LIAR...
HE'S AS SCARY AS EVER.
YOU KNOW HIM?
YES, I MET HIM BACK IN HIS WILD DAYS.
I'M SURE HE DOESN'T REMEMBER ME, THOUGH.
...WHEN WAS THIS...!?

askal
THAT'S AFTER THE FIGHT WITH HIS TEACHER...
ABOUT THREE YEARS AGO. HE WAS STROLLING AROUND THE SHOPPING DISTRICT, PICKING FIGHTS LEFT AND RIGHT WITH THE YAKUZA.
BACK THEN, I WAS DOING BODYGUARD WORK WITH A DIFFERENT GROUP.
HE WAS AN ABSOLUTE MONSTER— A WILD ANIMAL.

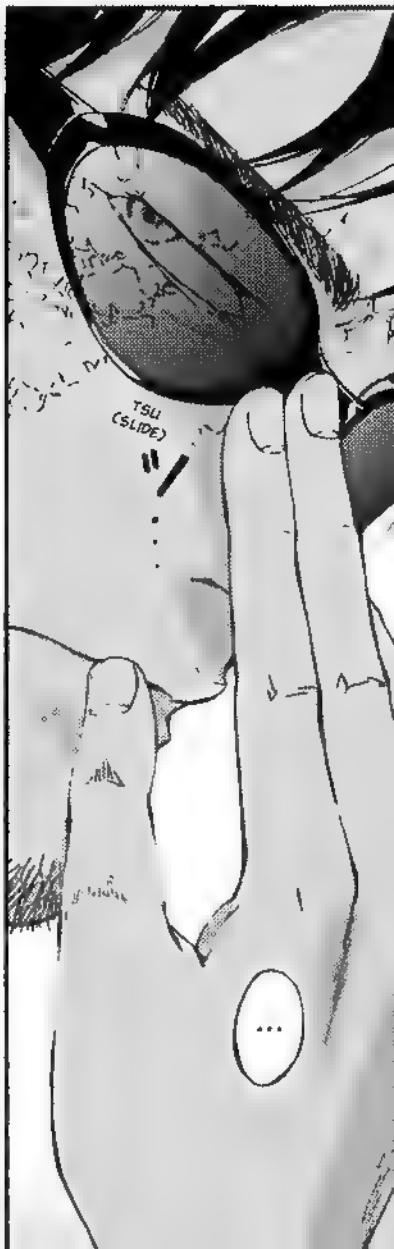
I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO APPROACH HIM.

...I SEE...
I GOT FIRED FOR RUNNING, AND THAT'S WHY I'M WITH THE KAKUHOUKAI NOW.
NEVER COULD HAVE IMAGINED THAT WE'D BE IN THE SAME BOAT TOGETHER LIKE THIS.
HERE WE ARE.
KIKII (SCREECH)

THERE'S AN OLD WWII-ERA SECRET MILITARY FACILITY UNDER THE BUILDING THAT'S WHERE WE'RE SET UP.

IT'S NORMALLY JUST A HIDING PLACE FOR SMUGGLED WEAPONS
THIS IS ONE OF THE SECRET ENTRANCES.

ガチャ
GACHA (CLICK)


TSU (SLIDE)
!!
...
...

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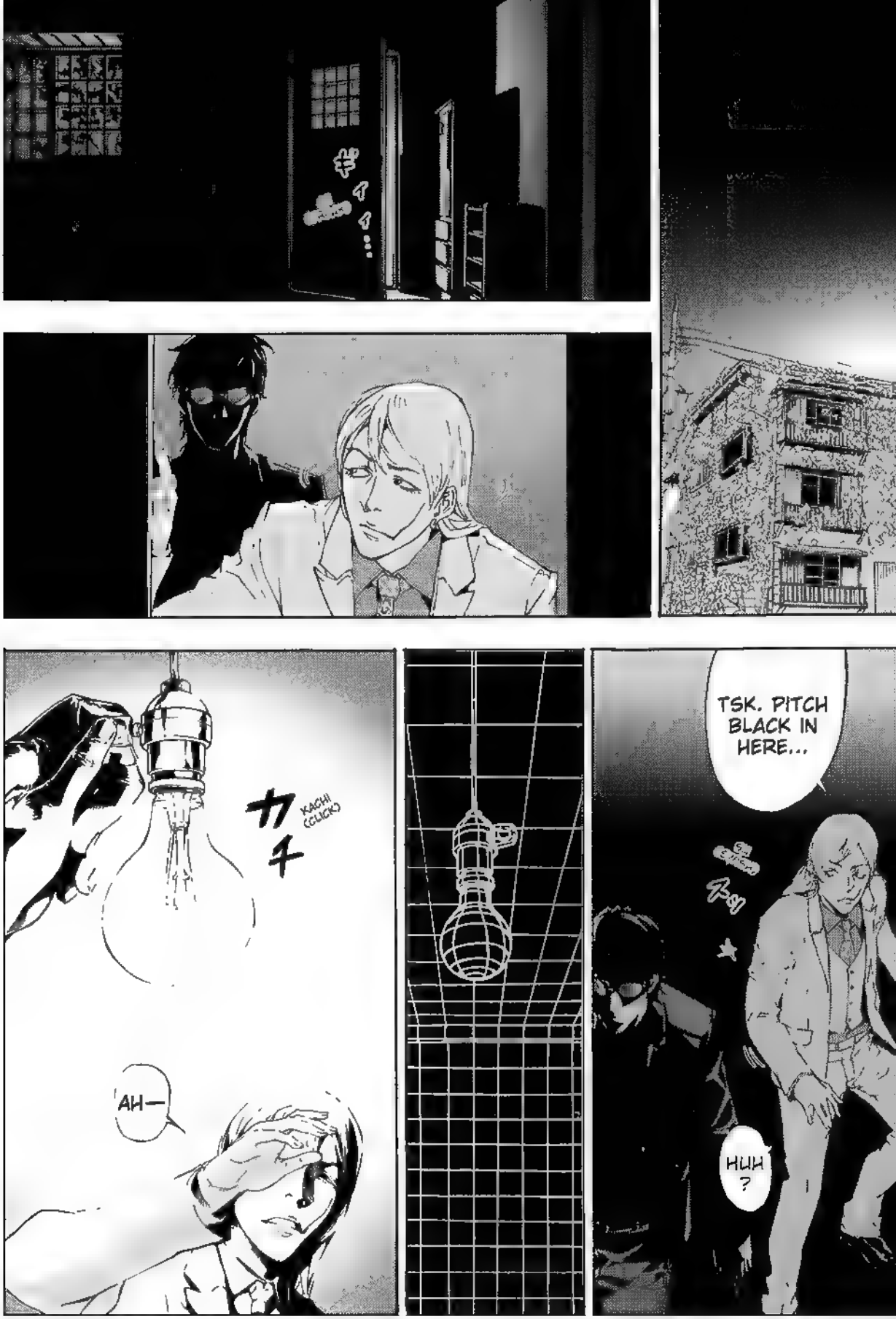
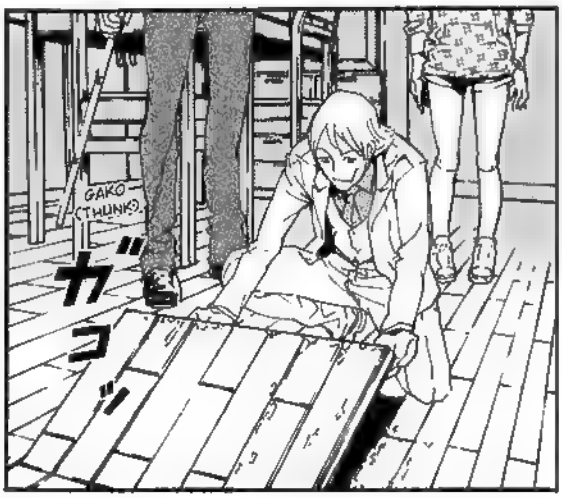

ギィィ…
カチ
KACHI (CLICK)
AH—
TSK. PITCH BLACK IN HERE...
ナデナデ
HUH?

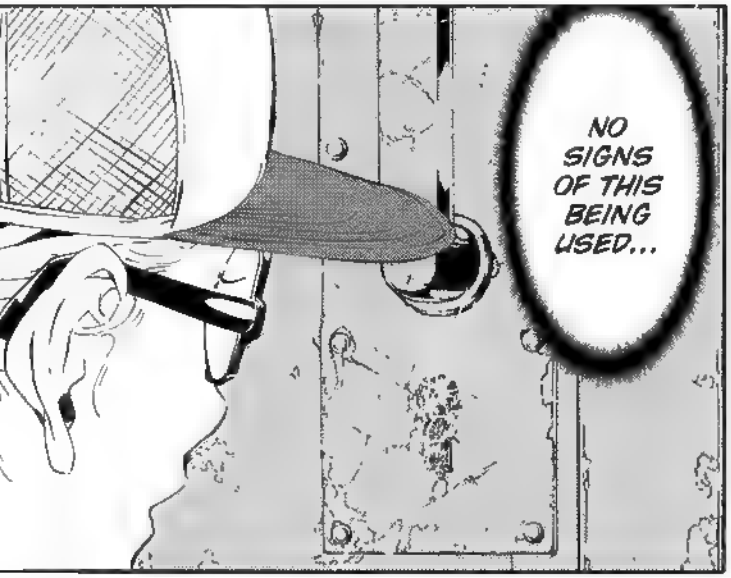
MAKE IT SNAPPY.
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT.
HOW'D YOU KNOW IT WAS THERE...?

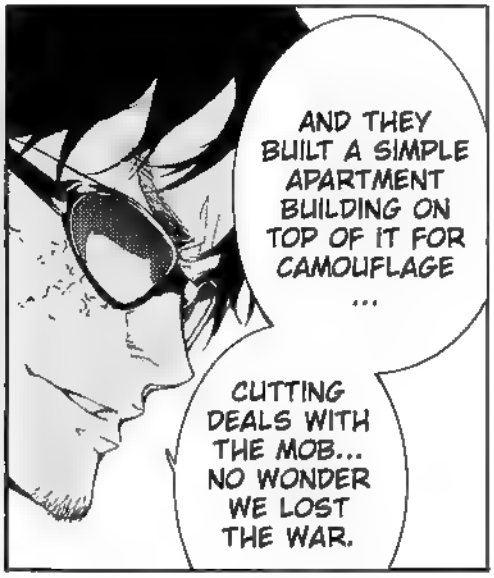
AFTER ME.


GAKO (THUNK)
ガコン

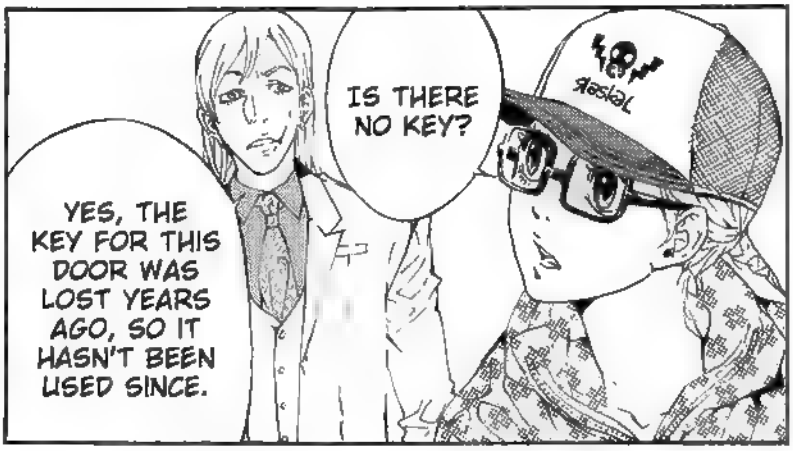
THERE WE GO.
GASHAN (GSHUNK)
ガシャン

...IT SOUNDS SO IMPOSING ...
THIS IS JUST ONE OF SEVERAL HIDDEN ENTRANCES.
IT'LL TAKE US TO THE MAIN BASE UNDER THE MOUNTAIN.
IN THE POST-WAR CHAOS, THE OLD MANAGEMENT BOUGHT THE WHOLE PLACE FROM THE MILITARY BEFORE GHQ COULD SCOOP IT ALL UP.


NO SIGNS OF THIS BEING USED...

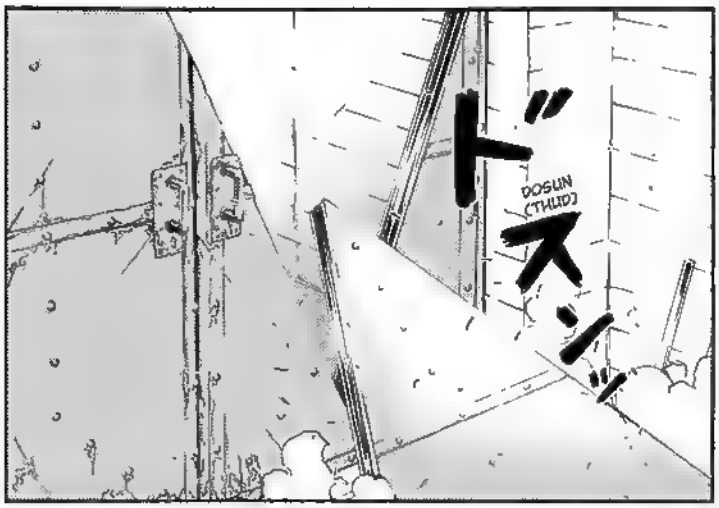

AND THEY BUILT A SIMPLE APARTMENT BUILDING ON TOP OF IT FOR CAMOUFLAGE ...
CUTTING DEALS WITH THE MOB... NO WONDER WE LOST THE WAR.

DOESN'T MATTER EITHER WAY.
ズ=1


IS THERE NO KEY?
YES, THE KEY FOR THIS DOOR WAS LOST YEARS AGO, SO IT HASN'T BEEN USED SINCE.

MAMORU-SAN!
I KNOW.

THAT WAS MY REASON-ING FOR BRINGING YOU HERE.


DOSUN (THUD)

KIN (KCHING)
KIN

LOOK THROUGH THE HOLE AND CHECK THE HANDLE.

HOW'D YOU KNOW?

IT'S A TRAP...

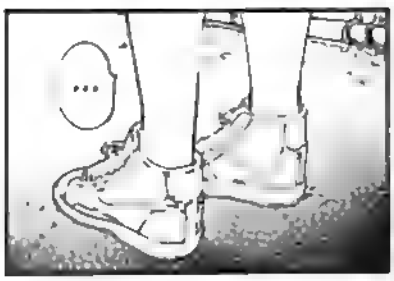
...SORRY ABOUT THAT.
I DIDN'T PLAN THIS OUT THOR-OUGHLY.
EVEN IF THEY'RE NOT USING IT...
...THE ENEMY'S NOT GONNA BE STUPID ENOUGH TO LEAVE IT OPEN AND WAITING FOR US.
N-NO, WAY...
...
OR THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN LETTING YOU POKE AROUND, HOPING YOU'D GET BLASTED TO PIECES WITH ME.
AND IF THEY WERE HOPING TO AMBUSH US, THEY WOULDN'T SET SUCH A SIMPLE TRAP.
OF COURSE, IF THAT WAS THE CASE, THEY'D HAVE CHARGED OUT THE SECOND IT FAILED.

...
...

?

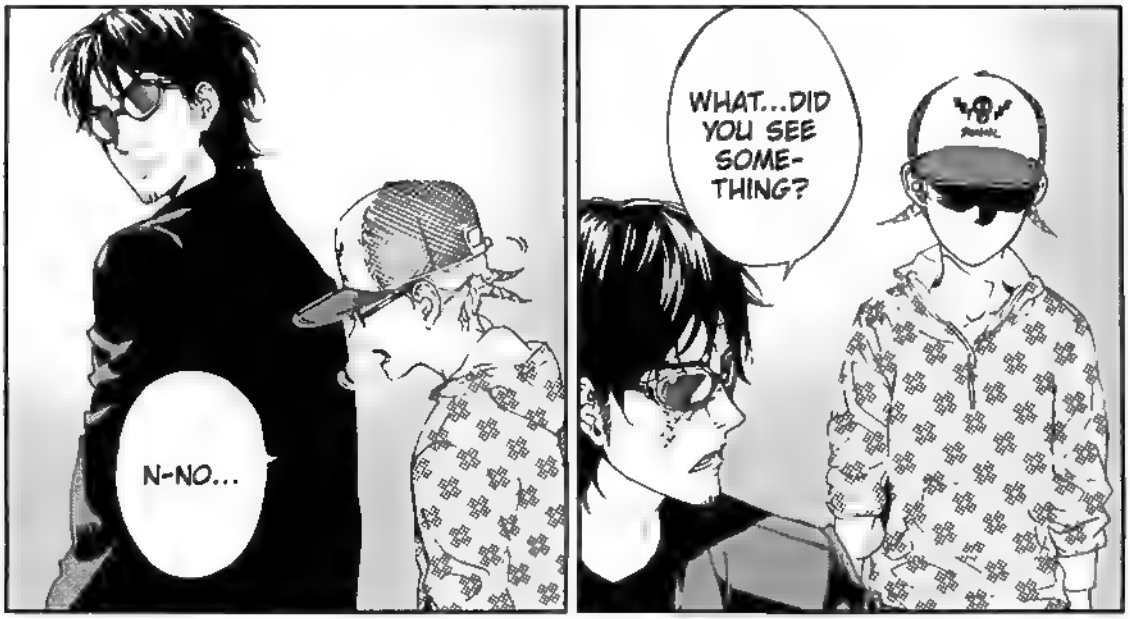
JUST A SECOND, MAMORU-SAN.

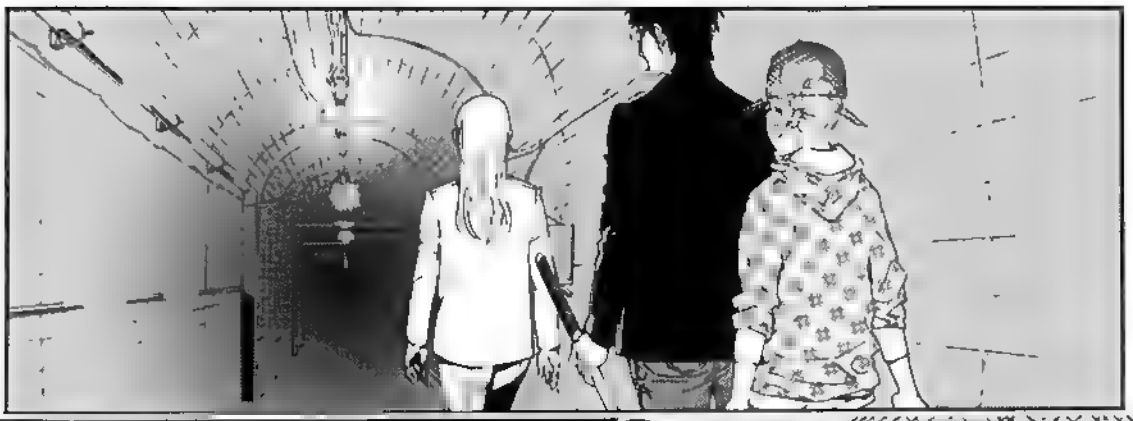
GOTCHA... LET'S GO.


...

?

THE SITUATION IS DEFINITELY CHANGING, BIT BY BIT, BUT THIS IS CERTAIN TO HELP.
PAY ATTENTION TO THE SOUND BEING PICKED UP BY YOUR SUNGLASSES.


N-NO...
WHAT...DID YOU SEE SOME-THING?



...

WHAT'S THIS...?
BASED ON THE STRUCTURE, I'D SAY THIS WAS A NATURAL FISSURE THAT THEY UTILIZED WHEN EXCAVATING THE FACILITY.
?! KUN (SNIFF)
?! KUN

STINKS LIKE CHEMICALS ...

ガラ
GARA (RATTLE)
GARA
ガラ
?

ガラ
GARA
GARA
ガラ

CRAP!

I KNOW.
CAREFUL WITH THIS, MAN.

BETTER THAN LEAVING BODIES TO ROT AND ATTRACT ATTENTION DUE TO THE STENCH.
THAT'S RIGHT, I REMEMBER HEARING THEY USED THIS SPOT FOR BODY DISPOSAL.
SORRY, SORRY.
YOU SPLASHED THAT SHIT!
AHH!
WH-WH-WHA ...?
SODIUM HYDROXIDE !?

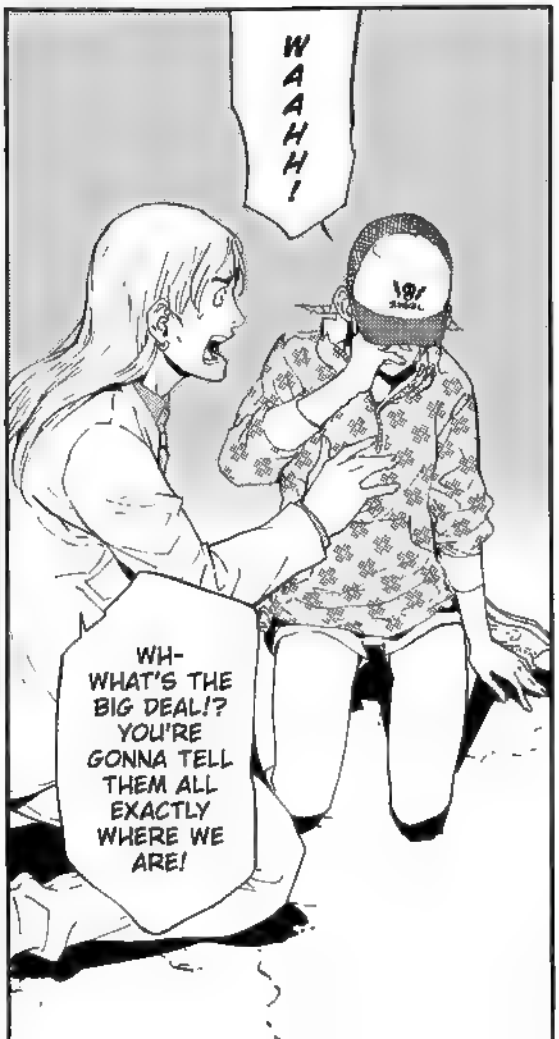
NNG ...
WAAAAH!
AAAAHH!!
NRRGH ...
AAAH!!
WAHHH!

WH-
WHERE THE HELL DID HE COME FRU--
HUH?
IS THAT A KID?
KEN

AAAGH!!
BUSU (STAB)
AAAHH!!
DA (DASH)
DA
AGH!
ZUBA (SLICE)

RRRGH
...

ZA
ZA (MARCH)
GACHA (CLICK)
LET HER CRY IF SHE WANTS! SHE MIGHT PRETEND TO BE ON TOP OF THINGS...
...BUT YOU DON'T KNOW HOW YOU'LL REACT WHEN YOU SEE SOMETHING LIKE THAT IN PERSON. IF THEY FIND US, SO BE IT.


WAAHH!
WH-WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL!? YOU'RE GONNA TELL THEM ALL EXACTLY WHERE WE ARE!

GUI (TUG)
HUH?

IF THOSE WERE YOUR PEOPLE THEY WERE DISSOLVING...
...YOU COULDN'T BE OKAY WITH IT EITHER!
YOU KNEW ABOUT THIS PLACE, AND YOU STAYED QUIET.
YOU CAN'T TELL ME YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THIS, SENJI.
W-WELL...

Bii
(BZZT)
Bii
Bii
HMPH... THEY'RE ON TO US...
Bii
Bii

Until
Death
do us
Part

chapter 84

Master, isn't this ...?
TEA ROOM
"SIREN"

IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
WELL, WELL... HERE'S A RARE GUEST.
...
HOW IS SPARKY DOING?
Just fine, Miss Anna.
NO, THE IDEA CAME TO ME AS I WALKED.
Was this your destination the entire time, Master?

WORKING, OF COURSE. DOING THE JOB YOU GAVE HIM.
AND WHERE IS HE?
IT'S GOOD TO SEE THINGS ARE NORMAL AROUND HERE.
I SEE.
NO RIDDLES FOR TODAY, THEN?
IT WOULD BE A WASTE OF MY TIME. YOU'VE NEVER SOLVED A SINGLE ONE BEFORE.

YOU AREN'T THE TYPE TO SHOW UP FOR NO REASON.
...
SORRY FOR FAILING TO LIVE UP TO YOUR STANDARDS.
WELL, YOU MIGHT AS WELL SAY WHAT YOU CAME FOR.
...THERE'S A GIRL I WANT TO SAVE...

ヒ"
Bii
ヒ"
Bii
ヒ"
Bii
ヒ"
Bii
ヒ"
Bii

IF IT BOTHERS YOU THAT MUCH, SHUT HER UP.
SOUNDS LIKE THEY'RE CLOSING IN.
SERIOUSLY? AND YOU'RE JUST GONNA STAND HERE!?
ヒ"
Bii

LOOK, IF SHE WERE AN ADULT, I'D BE SMACKING HER BY NOW.
BUT A KID'S GONNA CRY; YOU CAN'T STOP THAT.
WHAT? I'M NOT A BABY-SITTER.
W-WAIT! HEY!
HUH?
YOU CAN LEAVE NOW.
GACHA (CLICK)

WH-WHAT THE FUCK!?
AAAH!
AAGH!!
(GAGO (CRUNCH)
ZUGA (THWAM)
STAY BACK!
DOB (BLAM)
DOB

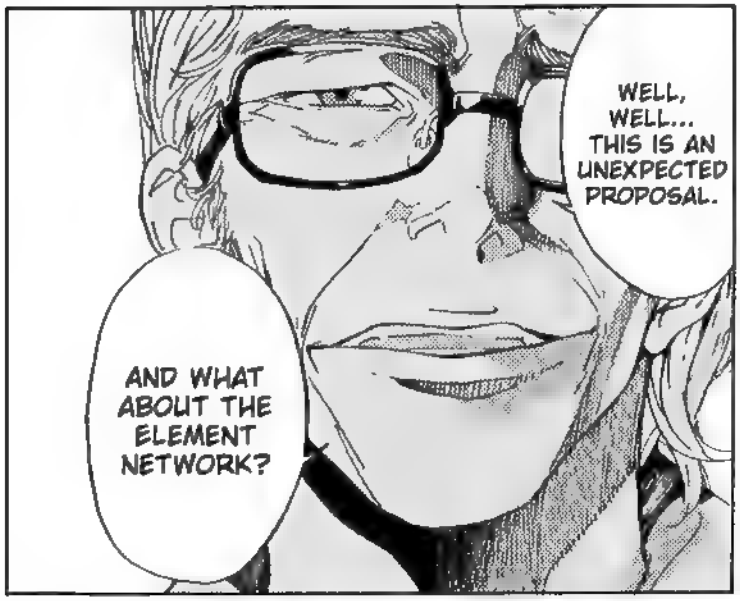
AAAAH!!
GUSHA (CRUNCH)
HEY!
DADA (DASH)
CALL THIS "WISEMAN" GUY.
I NEED TO TALK.

WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME, MR. SAMURAI?
CHA CHUKKO
YOU'RE NOT BARGING IN HERE TO SUGGEST A CEASE-FIRE, ARE YOU?

HUH !?
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'M DOING.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
BASED ON MY LIMITED KNOWLEDGE, I'M FAIRLY CERTAIN YOU ENJOY REAL TRICKY, HIGH-LEVEL CRIMES.
AM I WRONG?
...

AND IF I DESTROY THE KAKUHOUKAI RIGHT NOW, YOU'RE OUT OF A JOB.
SO YOU WANT TO START LOOKING FOR YOUR NEXT GIG.

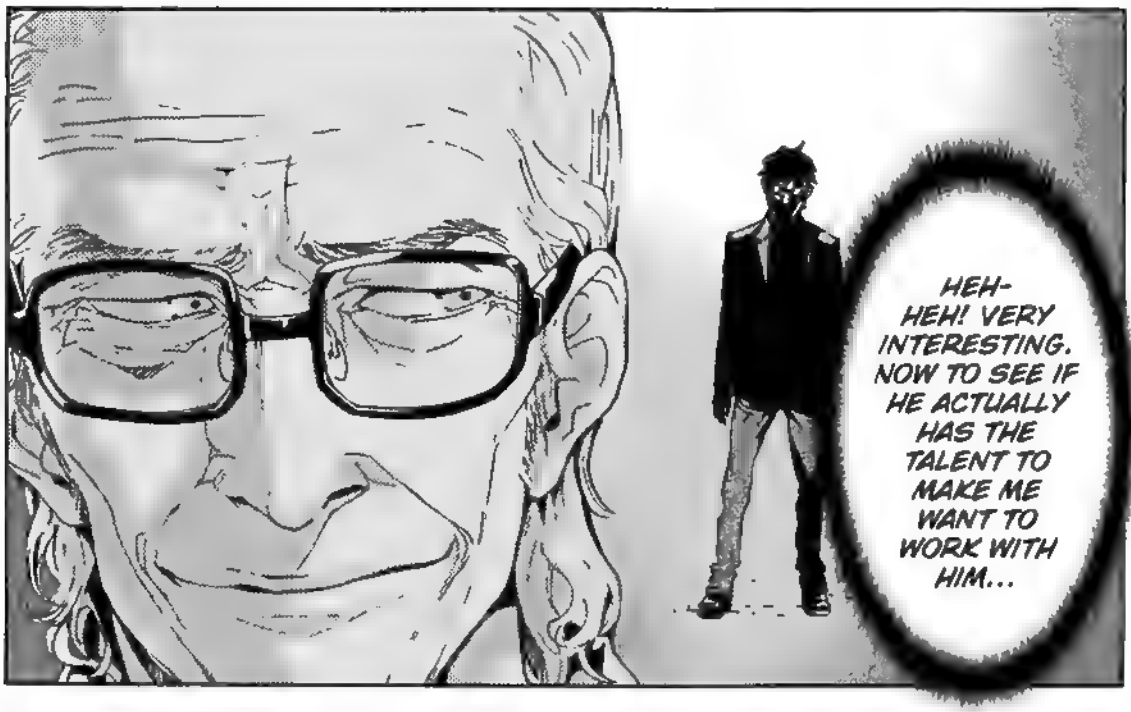
BE HONEST. TURUS'S ASSASSINATION CONTRACTS, YAKUZA SQUABBLES...
THAT'S NOT YOUR STYLE, IS IT? YOU HAD YOUR CHANCES TO KILL ME AND DIDN'T TAKE THEM.


WELL, WELL... THIS IS AN UNEXPECTED PROPOSAL.
AND WHAT ABOUT THE ELEMENT NETWORK?

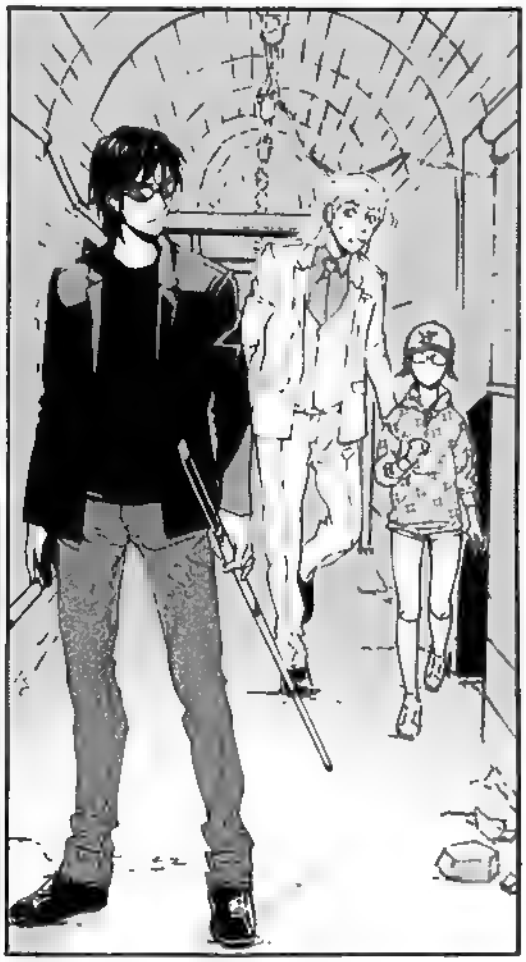
IF NECESSARY, I'LL LEAVE THEM.

CRIMES ...?
SO I'M PROPOSING A COMPETITION.
IF I CRUSH THE KAKUHOUKAI UNDER YOUR PROTECTION— YOUR CLIENT— I WIN.
IF I CAN'T DO IT, YOU WIN.
THEY'RE NOT GOING TO STAND FOR THE CRIMES I'M ABOUT TO COMMIT.

BURN ME, BOIL ME, DO AS YOU WISH.
SO IF I LOSE, I HAVE TO ACCEPT YOUR REQUEST.
AND IF I WIN?
...
THEN WE RESUME THE CONTEST IN FIVE MINUTES.
YOU'RE A FASCINATING MAN. I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS.

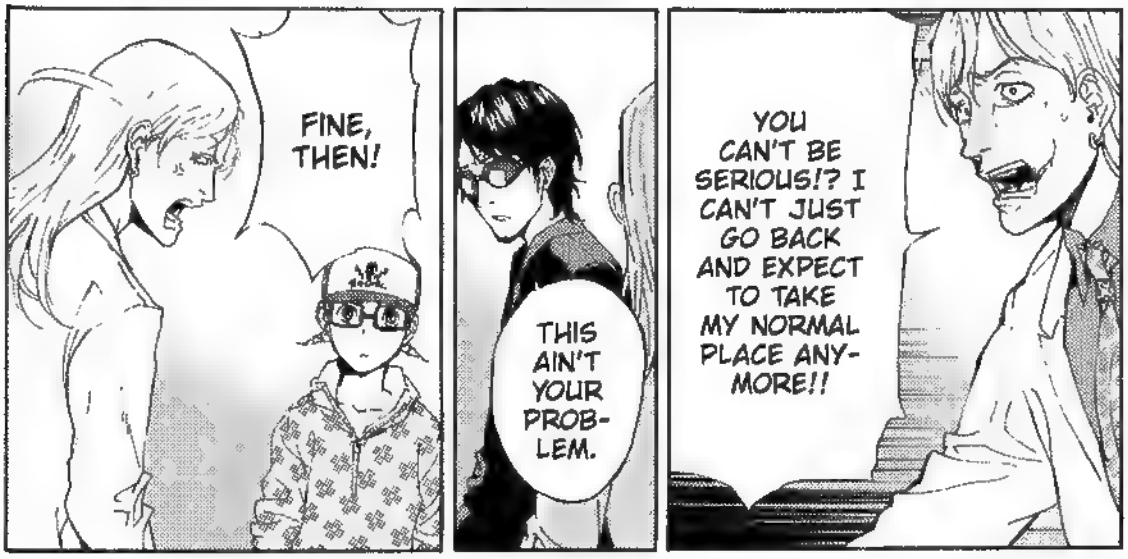

HEH-
HEH! VERY
INTERESTING.
NOW TO SEE IF
HE ACTUALLY
HAS THE
TALENT TO
MAKE ME
WANT TO
WORK WITH
HIM...

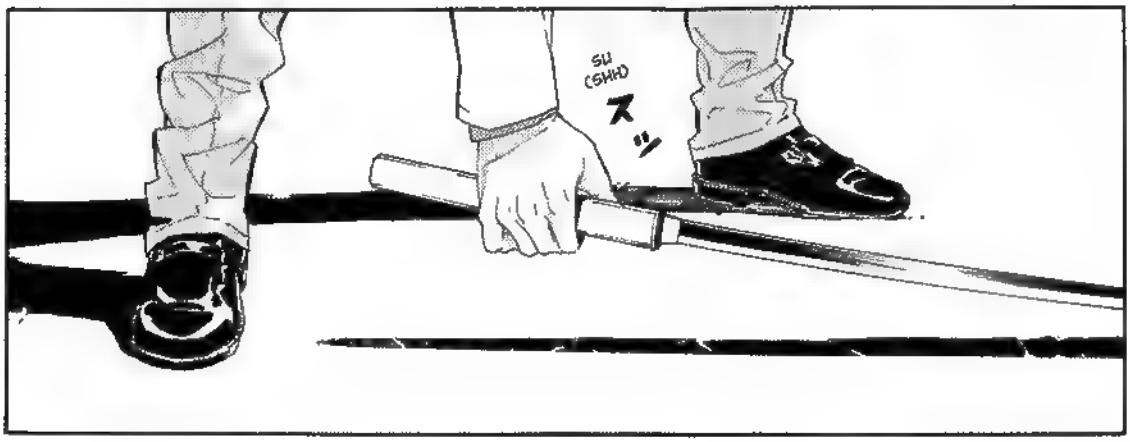
UM...I'M
SORR—

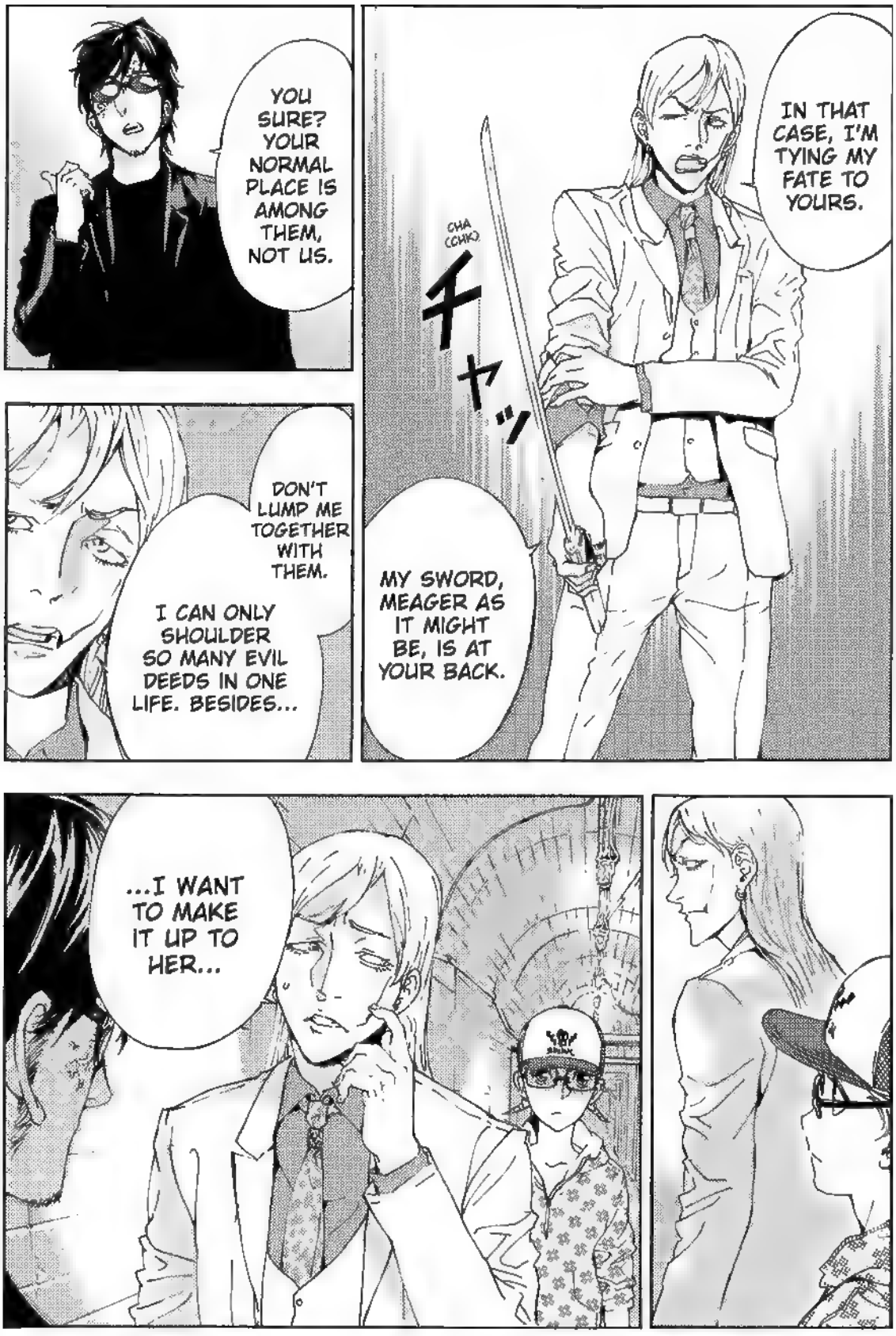


WHAT THE
HELL DO
YOU THINK
YOU'RE
DOING!?

YOU'RE STILL HERE?
YOU HEARD ALL OF THAT. IT'S GONNA BE A COMPETITION BETWEEN HIM AND ME. GET LOST.


FINE, THEN!
THIS AIN'T YOUR PROB-LEM.
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!? I CAN'T JUST GO BACK AND EXPECT TO TAKE MY NORMAL PLACE ANY-MORE!!


SU (SHH)
スッ


YOU SURE? YOUR NORMAL PLACE IS AMONG THEM, NOT US.
IN THAT CASE, I'M TYING MY FATE TO YOURS.
CHA (CHK)
チャッ
MY SWORD, MEAGER AS IT MIGHT BE, IS AT YOUR BACK.
DON'T LUMP ME TOGETHER WITH THEM.
I CAN ONLY SHOULDER SO MANY EVIL DEEDS IN ONE LIFE. BESIDES...
...I WANT TO MAKE IT UP TO HER...

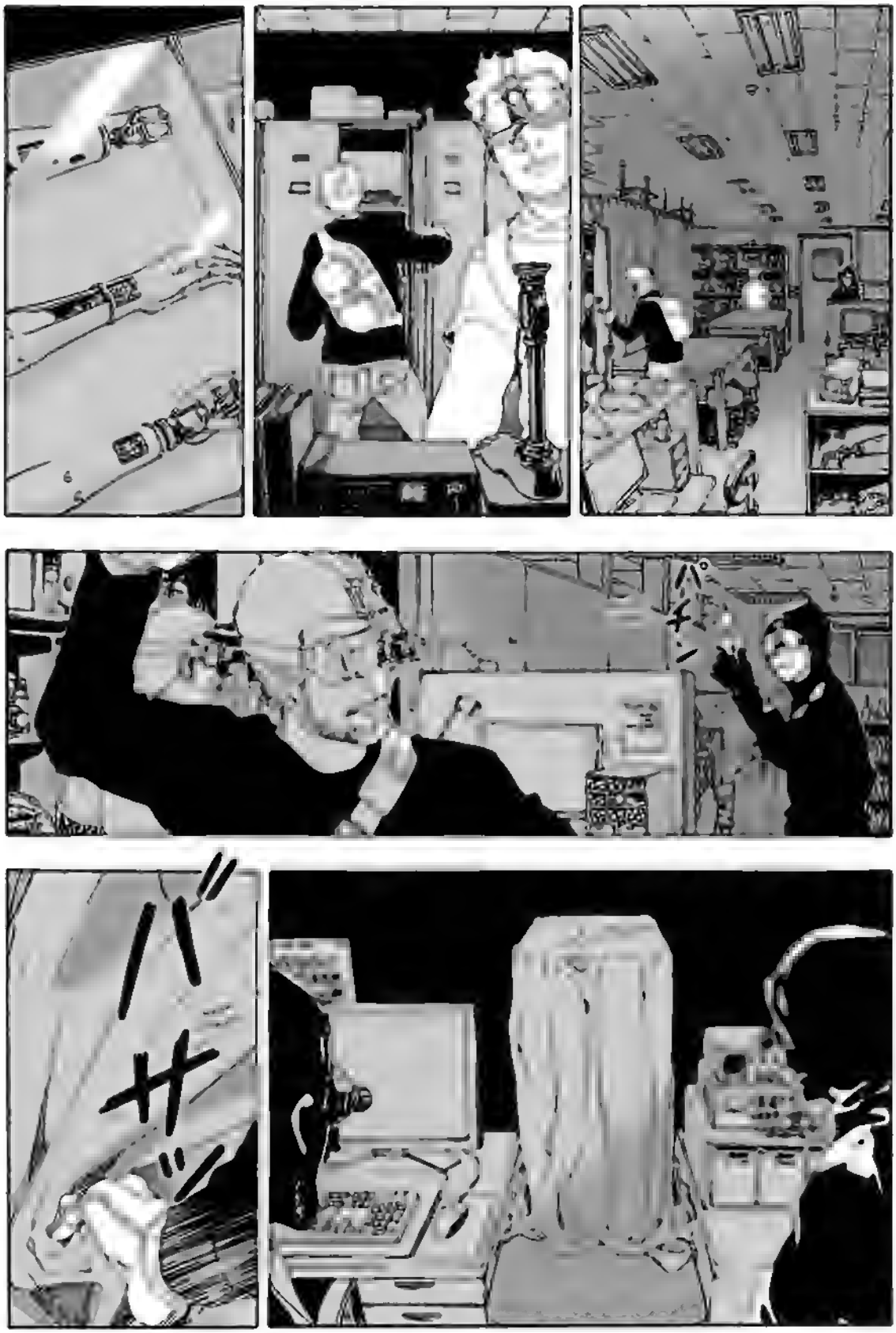
I CAN LIVE WITH THAT.
I'M NOT GONNA TRUST YOU.
HMPH. WEIRDO...
WHAT, YOU CAN'T TAKE SOME OF YOUR OWN MEDICINE?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. THE BULLETS HAVE ALWAYS FOUND A WAY TO MISS.
I'VE NEVER TAKEN A SHOT YET.
HYUN (SWISH)
ヒュン
YOU GONNA TAKE ON GUNS WITH THAT BLADE?
ヒュン
HYUN

THE ONLY ONES WITH REAL TRAINING ARE THE THREE WITH WISE-MAN.
ALL RIGHT... I'VE SEEN A FEW LIKE YOU...SOME GUYS ARE JUST LUCKY.
AND AFTER THAT IS KOMURA.
OKAY.

YOU MIGHT BE CONFIDENT, BUT STAY AWAY FROM THEM.

YOU DON'T KNOW IF THEY'LL COME WITH GUNS.
ALL RIGHT.

発行者
沢渡啓之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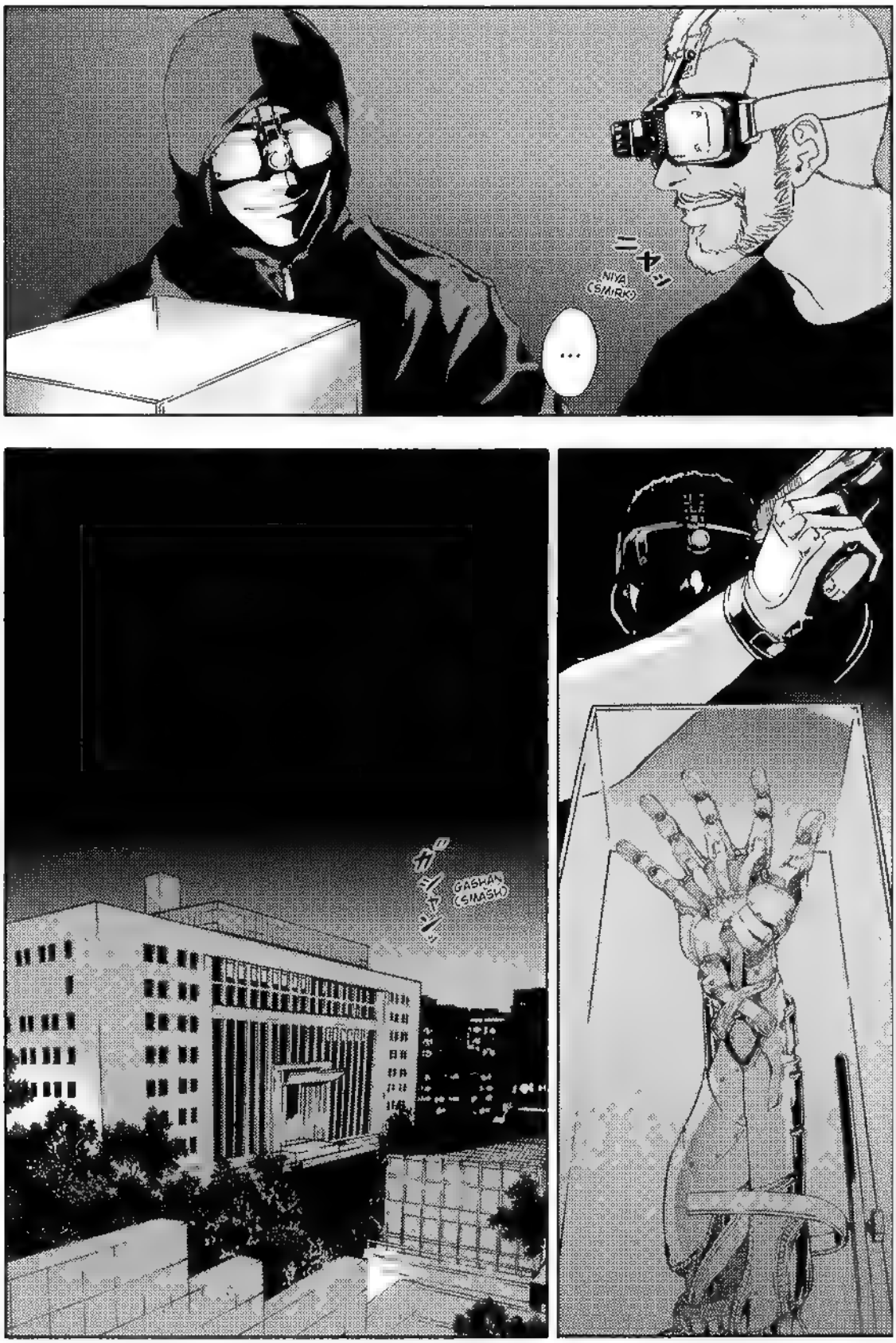
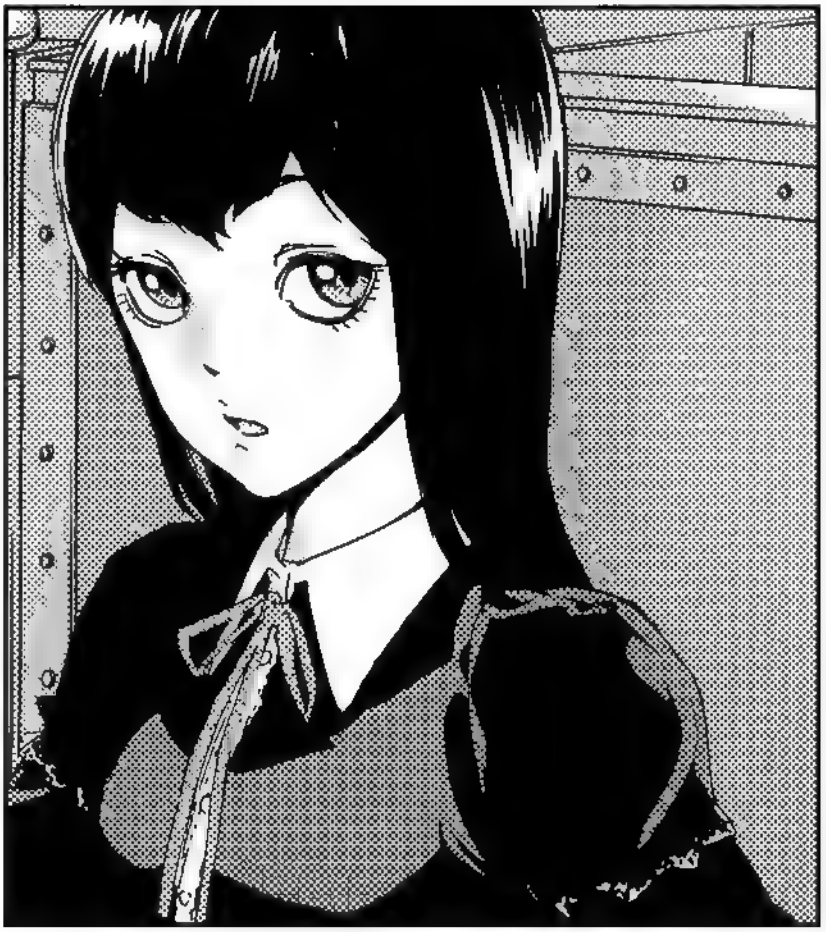
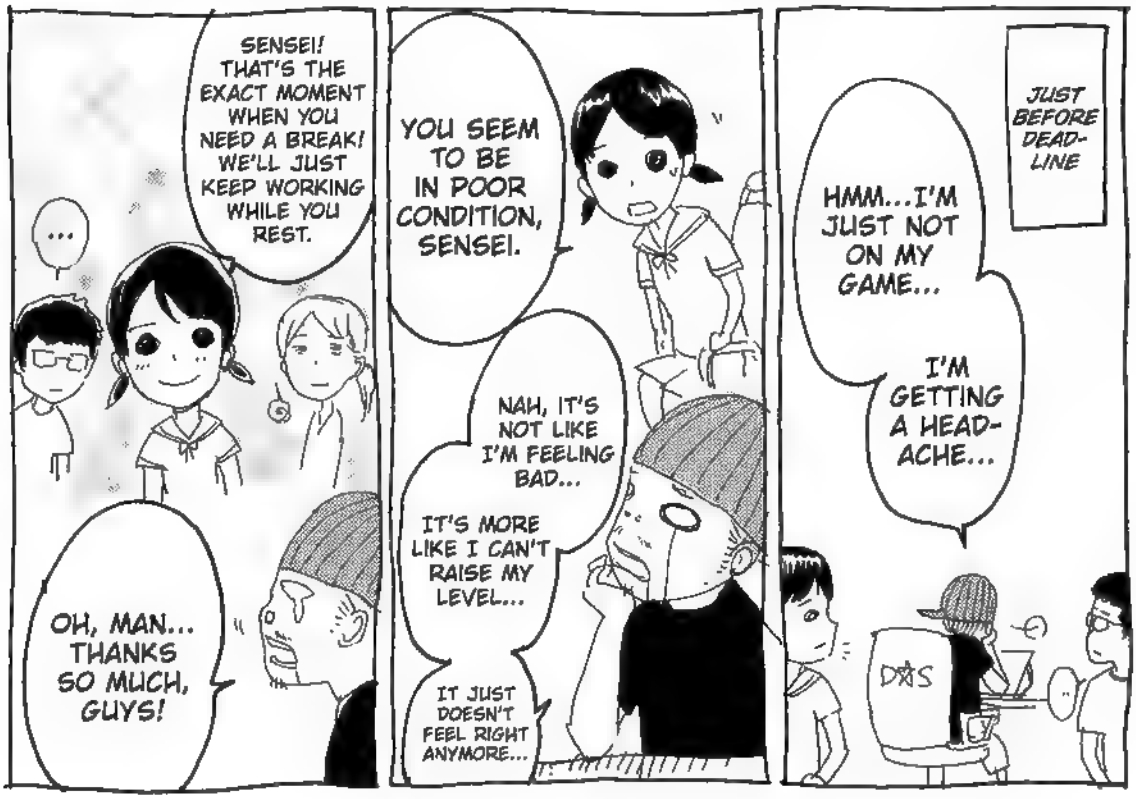

ニヤッ
NIYA
(SMIRK)
...
ガシャーン
GASHAN
(SMASH)



VOL.10
OMAKE PAGE


JUST BEFORE DEAD-LINE
HMM...I'M JUST NOT ON MY GAME...
I'M GETTING A HEAD-ACHE...
YOU SEEM TO BE IN POOR CONDITION, SENSEI.
NAH, IT'S NOT LIKE I'M FEELING BAD...
IT'S MORE LIKE I CAN'T RAISE MY LEVEL...
IT JUST DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT ANYMORE...
SENSEI! THAT'S THE EXACT MOMENT WHEN YOU NEED A BREAK! WE'LL JUST KEEP WORKING WHILE YOU REST.
...
OH, MAN... THANKS SO MUCH, GUYS!

OKAY, I'M GONNA GO TAKE A BREATHER.
HAVE FUN HOLDING DOWN THE FORT! ☆
HEY! GET BACK HERE BEFORE I KILL YOU!!
YOU JERK!
...
WE'RE GONNA CALL YOUR EDITOR AND TELL ON YOU!!
CHUMBA
I KEEP WANTING TO VISIT THE SKI SLOPES IN SUMMER TO TAKE MY MOUNTAIN BIKE DOWNHILL, BUT DEADLINES AND PARTIES AND SUCH KEEP WIPING OUT MY PLANS...
AND IF I TRY TO TAKE MY BIKE DOWN THE LITTLE MOUNTAIN NEAR TOWN, THE OLD FOLKS GET ON MY CASE.
THAT'S DANGEROUS! THERE'S PEOPLE AROUND!
OLD MAN 1
SORRY. I'M A PERSON TOO, THOUGH...
HIKING STICK
OLD MAN 2
LIM... PLEASE DON'T... HIT ME...
THE WORST ARE THE LADIES!
EEEEEK!!
10m
I'M NOT THAT CLOSE! WHEN YOU SCREAM LIKE THAT, IT SCARES ME AND MAKES ME MORE LIKELY TO CRASH...
SO ANYWAY, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO GO MOUNTAIN BIKING LOCALLY.

OF COURSE NOT! THEY'RE DIFFERENT COLORS, MAN!
WHAT? YOU THINK THEY'RE ALL THE SAME?
(1) COLLECTING MOUNTAIN BIKE EQUIPMENT
SO I START EXHIBITING THESE WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOMS.
BRRM! BRRM!
GET BACK TO WORK!
I CAN HANDLE THAT BANK EASY!
(2) WATCHING VIDEOS DURING WORK AND RUNNING MENTAL SIMULATIONS
HOW'S THAT? FEEL GOOOOD?
THAT'S WHY I GOT THIS NEW TEFLON OIL! NOTHING'S TOO GOOD FOR MY LITTLE BABY!
OH, REALLY? IT HURTS AROUND THIS AREA?
UGH ...
(3) COMMUNICATING WITH MY BIKE
SEE YOU AGAIN IN THE NEXT VOLUME!
...
FORGET HIM.
UM... WHO IS HE TALKING TO?
Sensei... I want to go downhill.

Art Staff
Suri ♀: Chief Assistant
0-Second ♂: Background Art
Taurus ♀: Background Art

Military Advisor
Lee Hyun Seok (warmania)

SPECIAL THANKS
Shingo Takano

Until
Death
do us
Part

Translation Notes

Common Honorifics
no honorific: Indicates familiarity or closeness; if used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult.
***-san*:** The Japanese equivalent of Mr./Mrs./Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific.
***-sama*:** Conveys great respect; may also indicate that the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee.
***-kun*:** Used most often when referring to boys, this indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing.
***-chan*:** An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity used mostly in reference to girls; also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender.
***-senpai*:** A suffix used to address upperclassmen or more experienced coworkers.
***-sensei*:** A respectful term for teachers, artists, or high-level professionals.

Yen conversion: While exchange rates fluctuate daily, a convenient conversion estimation is about ¥100 to 1 USD.

Page 17
Waka-gashira: The "young head" of a yakuza organization. Typically the waka-gashira (or waka) is the next in line to inherit the syndicate when the leader (kumi-cho) dies or steps down, and he is often responsible for organizing forces and carrying out raids. In this story, Komura is the waka-gashira of the Kakuhoukai yakuza.

Page 50
Yoi Ocha: A parody of well-known bottled green tea brand "Oi Ocha." The name "oi ocha" means "hey! tea" in a way one might order at a café. By changing it to "yoi," it sounds more like "good tea."

Page 198
"Suppress all human emotion and compassion...": A quote attributed to the teachings of the famous Yagyu samurai clan, used heavily in the 1978 movie and subsequent TV series *Shogun's Samurai* (or The Yagyu Clan Conspiracy) starring Sonny Chiba. The quote was later reused by Quentin Tarantino for Chiba to speak in his role in *Kill Bill*.

UNTIL DEATH DO US PART 5

Hiroshi Takashige
DOUBLE-S

Translation: Stephen Paul
Lettering: AndWorld Design

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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